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4/19/1976

PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

62-587

DO NOT DESTROY - X 277A

PENDING LITIGATION 167

See also Nos.

128, 148, 167, 396, 201, 217

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News Clipping
Ser. 45-640

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156-H

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451

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640

News
Clippings

961.3

7-2496
Name Number
Fials

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See also Nos.

Rec 10-6-70

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Reagan Labels Kennedy Slaying Mideast 'Import'

Society Is 'Sick' Only With
Grief, Anger, Governor
Tells Indiana GOP Group

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Gov. Reagan Thursday night attributed the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to "the violence of war in the Middle East imported by an alien."

The chief executive of the state where Kennedy was killed declared:

"I for one find it unacceptable and worst than no answer at all to be told that all of us collectively are to blame and that ours is a sick society."

"Perhaps we are sick," he added. "We are sick with grief, sick with anger and sick of what has been allowed to go on in this nation for too long a time. The senator had been speaking of unity among our people, of healing our wounds with respect for law and order, instead of the kind of violence that has beset us. Let us continue that talk."

Reagan, considered a contender for the Republican presidential nomination, though unannounced, made his remarks at an Indiana GOP fund-raising dinner.

Reference to Ancestry Seen

He did not elaborate on his view of the cause of the killing, but clearly referred to the Jordanian ancestry of the man accused of the killing, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, and his reported hatred of Jews.

"It is time to get angry" at violence and disrespect for law and order, Reagan declared. He said the assassination of Robert Kennedy's brother, President John F. Kennedy, was done by one who embraced "the Godless philosophy of communism, and it was Communist violence he brought to our land."

Reagan referred there to the late Lee Harvey Oswald, identified by the Warren Commission as President Kennedy's killer. Oswald once lived in the Soviet Union.

"The shattering sound of his shots were still ringing in our ears," Reagan continued without elaboration, "when a policy decision was made to play down his Communist attachment lest we provoke the Soviet Union."

Old-Fashioned Idea Urged

It is time to return to the old-fashioned idea of punishment for the criminal, instead of treating him as "a patient made ill by the failure of society" the governor said.

"Permissiveness from cradle to crime is our philosophy, and what were once considered privileges are now recognized as rights, and first and foremost is the right to adjust any grievance by the nearest means at hand, be it rock, club or fire bomb."

Turning briefly to foreign policy, Reagan criticized corruption in the South Vietnamese government, and remarked:

"It is time to tell friend and foe alike, we are in Vietnam because it is in our national interest to be there and whether it offends friend or foe, we are going to do what has to be done beginning now."

Fearfulness Decried

Reagan said America has survived many trials, has no reason to be fearful now and "we should dismiss those in high places who have sounded the uncertain note."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 6/14/68

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Nick B. Williams

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He also talked of the "forgotten man" in America:

"He holds the whole bureaucratic structure of government on his tired back and he works two and a half hours of each day just to pay its cost . . . This forgotten American is black, he is white . . . He wants leadership that will restore his faith in government and perhaps in himself . . . He loves peace, but not at any price."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Students for Kennedy Disband but Form New Action Corps

BY DAVID ROE

Times Staff Writer

California Students for Kennedy has officially disbanded, organization officials announced Thursday.

Gary Townsend, cochairman of Southern California Students for Kennedy, announced the formation of the Kennedy Action Corps, dedicated to "promoting the programs, policies, and ideas of Sen. Robert Kennedy."

The statement was issued simultaneously in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento and Fresno.

The new group's first project will be a door-to-door campaign to collect 500,000 signatures on a petition calling for strong gun-control legislation.

The petition will be presented Tuesday to the House Judiciary Committee in Washington, D.C.

The committee is meeting to reconsider its tie vote last Tuesday which blocked President Johnson's gun control bill from passing to the floor of the House.

The petition calls for a ban on all mail-order gun sales, registration of all guns in the United States; a ban on gun sales to persons younger than 18 and the requirement of a permit for all purchases of ammunition.

Townsend said that the new corps, which is open to all individuals interested in pursuing the late Sen. Kennedy's goals, will not now endorse any presidential candidate.

Townsend is a member of the

California delegation to the Democratic National Convention pledged to Sen. Kennedy.

He did not rule out the possibility the corp's 10,000 members, formerly members of Students for Kennedy, might choose to support one of the Democratic candidates before the convention in August.

Students for Kennedy in Oregon also plans to disband and join the Kennedy Action Corps, Townsend said, and student organizations supporting Kennedy in Indiana and Nebraska are expected to follow suit.

Citizens for Gun Control, a Southern California group, will aid the corps in its campaign for strong gun control, Joel Rubenstein, its leader, said. It will conduct a statewide letter-writing campaign before Tuesday's meeting of the Judiciary Committee.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
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Editor: Nick B. Williams
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The U.S. Sick or Well?

The tragedy of Robert F. Kennedy is not yet ended. Following the public displays of grief, this nation will once again settle back into its illusions, its deliberately false view of itself. No society wants to admit its fatal faults, least of all the United States with its soaring crime rate, its tradition of violence, and its seething hatreds.

Obviously, 200 million Americans are not capable of assassination, but it does not follow that "a single psychopathic gunman" is divorced from his society.

Like all peoples, the Americans prefer myths to realities, words to deeds. We all recall the eulogies, the genuine grief of many men, the public mourning for John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and now Robert F. Kennedy, but we refuse to admit the terrible hatred which focused on these men who represented a threat to existing evils.

Since his death five years ago, John Kennedy has been made into a myth of a beloved young leader. Yet, most of us can recall the obscene hatred with which too many Americans regarded him, and the rejoicing which his death caused in some quarters. The two great Americans who were slain this year were admired and loved by many, but they were detested by many more. To a large percentage of white Americans, Dr. King was considered a rabble-rouser, a subversive, and probably a "Communist."

★

While not condoning murder per se, many Americans welcomed his death, unaware that this Christian man was all that stood between them and black extremism. Similarly with Robert Kennedy. His opposition to the Vietnam war was resented by those Americans who believe that patriotism requires the continuation of error as long as it is national policy, and he was openly denounced by those who lust for crusades in the name of anti-communism.

Some Americans were jealous of Kennedy's wealth and criticized him for using it in political campaigns.

but few can be so naive about the enormous amounts of money spent by all public figures in what has become the big business of politics. Most Americans would have preferred Robert Kennedy to have been a playboy, a figure with whom they could vicariously enjoy their dreams of unrestrained indulgence. Instead,

he embraced the victims of American society and became a champion of those who have no monetary or political rewards to offer...

It is true that assassins are plagued by private demons, and that some killers may use pay or a single political issue to excuse their desire to slay. However, it is far more significant that the murderers of King and Robert Kennedy, whatever strange connections may be revealed at their trials, live in a society in which racial hatred is increasing among both whites and blacks, a society in which anti-communism has become a cult, a society in which violence is defended in many quarters.

★

Any historian knows the tradition of violence, riots, lynchings, and murders, which is part of our past and present. Our folklore honors the man with a gun; our entertainment media cynically offers scenes of increasing violence to titillate audiences and make money. The arena games brutalized the Romans and made them indifferent to human life, and it would be remarkable that violence in films and on television should have no effect, whatsoever, on individuals who live in a neurotic age filled with stress and terror.

Consider the outcry which arises when it is suggested that guns have no place in a modern society. Some members of the National Rifle Assn. are sincerely concerned for the rights of hunters, but it is common knowledge what many Americans want guns for—the pistol which slew Kennedy was bought at the time of the Watts riots. Let us honestly admit what goes on in this nation, the bitter racial feelings, the political fanaticism, the cult of violence.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

III-4 Los Angeles Times
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Editor: Nick B. Williams

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What is eroding American society is not the work of a few lunatics and cranks—there are tides of hatred engulfing this nation. In the past, other republics have succumbed to violence in politics and in the streets and ended in the grasp of tyrants. There is nothing to guarantee that the United States will not join the long list of the failures of history . . .

Does anyone really believe that security measures will prevent more assassinations in our country, or is safety for our leaders to be found in avoiding unwelcome truths and catering to present prejudice?

THOMAS W. ALBRICA
Professor of History
USC

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

State's Case Against Sirhan Good---Yorty

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty said Friday the state has a "very, very strong case" against accused slayer Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and said criminal trials have become a game based on technicalities.

Yorty spoke to a brief news conference after a tour of HemisFair, the San Antonio world's fair.

He drew criticism last week for statements he made about a diary that supposedly belonged to Sirhan, accused of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"Criminal trials have become a sort of a game based on technicalities instead of a search for truth," Yorty said. He said no one has challenged the truthfulness of his statements about Sirhan. He said he was certain Sirhan can get a fair trial.

He said the slaying was "witnessed, or almost witnessed," by millions of people on television.

Yorty stopped at HemisFair while on a trip to the national mayor's conference in Chicago.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

III-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan's Mystical Bent Shown by Dues Payment, Book Order

BY JOHN DART

Times Relig

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is a recent member of the Rosicrucian Order, a fraternal organization which expounds a philosophy based on study of metaphysics and development of psychic powers, it was learned Friday.

The native Jordanian, indicted for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, several months ago applied for membership by letter to the San Jose headquarters of the Ancient Mystical Order of Rosae Crucis (AMORC), the organization's official name.

Arthur Piepenbrink, supreme secretary, told The Times that after Sirhan was accepted and he paid one month's dues he "became inactive because he didn't pay his dues."

While in jail, Sirhan directed that \$20 of his confiscated money be sent to the Rosicrucians, presumably to cover the \$4-a-month dues for the last five months.

Piepenbrink said Sirhan did not join the Los Angeles AMORC lodge and "we had no correspondence with him other than the original application."

One of the questions on the application was: "Do you try to practice good citizenship and obey the laws of the country in which you live?"

Piepenbrink said Sirhan answered "yes." He said if the answer is anything other than yes, such as a qualified answer, the application is rejected.

The Rosicrucian Order, largest of several Rosicrucian societies, claims it dates back to 1350 BC during the reign of Egyptian Pharaoh Akhnaton. The organization maintains at San Jose a university and a museum with a large collection of Egyptian, Assyrian and Babylonian artifacts.

Beth Holder, Rosicrucian public relations director, said the worldwide organization expounds "a system of metaphysical and physical philosophy that is intended to awake the dormant faculties of an individual whereby he may utilize his talents and become more aware of the world around him and lead a more useful life."

Blavatsky Reports Disputed

From his jail cell, Sirhan also requested two books on theosophy — which expert Boris de Zirkoff of Los Angeles said is often defined as "wisdom-religion." The books were "Talks on 'At the Feet of the Master'" by C. W. Leadbeater and "The Secret Doctrine" by Mme. H. P. Blavatsky, founder of the theosophical movement in America.

De Zirkoff emphatically disputed two reports on network television programs that Mme. Blavatsky was the author of a manual for revolutionaries. De Zirkoff is editor of "The Collected Writings of H. P. Blavatsky," now in its 10th volume.

"She was a proponent of universal brotherhood, but she always wrote along nonpolitical lines," said De Zirkoff.

It was reported from Israeli-occupied Jordan, meanwhile, that Sirhan's father, Bishara Sirhan, has applied for and been given permission to go from his home village, Tiayeba, to Amman, Jordan's capital, possibly as the first step of a flight to Los Angeles.

He told newsmen that he planned to withdraw funds from an Amman bank. He said he wanted the travel permit "in case I should want to go anywhere." He has been considering a trip to Los Angeles, but hasn't yet made a final decision, he said.

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III-1 Los Angeles Times
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

CARTOON VIEWS OF THE WEEK



"Tell me about yourself—your birth, your parents, how you grew up, your hopes, your plans—and the best way for us to kill you"

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

III-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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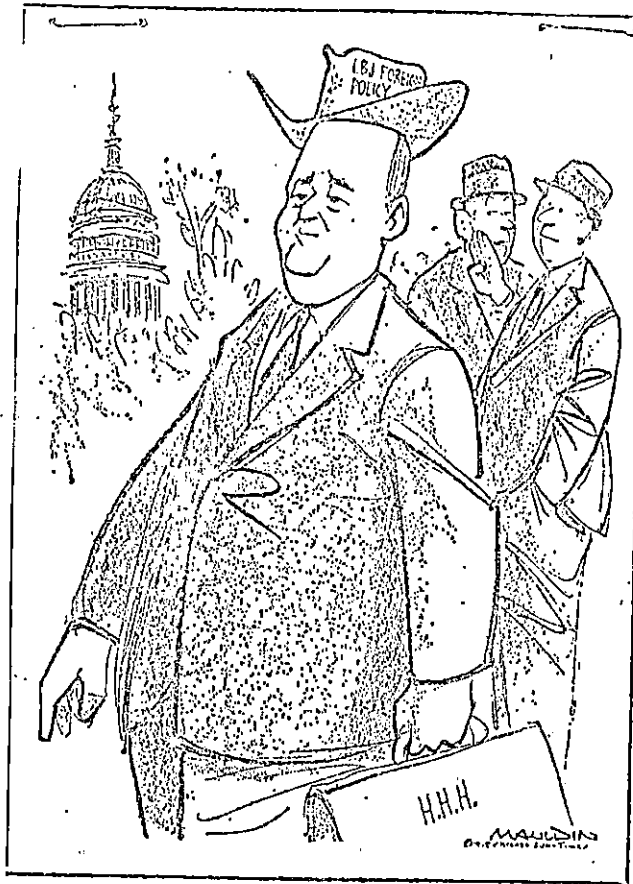
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"He's been wearing it so long he thinks it fits"



"I just don't know what this country is coming to"

"No sir, not a veteran—a college graduate!"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A Chance To Respond

WASHINGTON—The question is not what our reaction to the tragedy means. The question is whether Americans, at last, will grasp the meaning and then, meaningfully, respond.

It has been a week since a .22-caliber bullet mortally wounded Robert F. Kennedy and shot a hole of shock and sorrow through America's heart. It is the country's capacity, if any, to recover from this latter injury which must concern us now. The madness of the assassin's act is a matter for the courts to consider and for psychiatrists and pathologists to ponder. But the issue in the public domain

is the reaction of us private citizens to that awful deed.

The heartening but fragile fact is that for the moment decency has displaced the obscenity of our selfishness; compassion has surfaced to contain the violence of hate. If velvet affluence and stark want have not yet fully corrupted this incredible and incredibly complex society, we may be able to recognize this phenomenon of remorse and self-examination, like the candles at the senator's gravesite in Arlington last Saturday night, and use it to guide us out of the darkness.

By now nearly everybody has stowed away

in memory his favorite vignettes of that astonishing voyage. Through the windows of the train, two touching scenes imprinted themselves indelibly on the numbed consciousness of this observer: As we passed the environs of Jersey City, a willowy black girl waved at the coach bearing the casket. From her neck dangled on a string a piece of cardboard on which she had printed the words: "Farewell Robert." Hours later, at sunset, as the cortege wove cautiously through the Maryland suburbs of the nation's capital, it passed, on the right, six male members of a white family standing at attention, stepping-stone style,

chests bared in the muggy heat. It was as if they were posing for a group picture as a memento for the Kennedy clan's own album.

It is treacherously idle to argue that the millions of hands—black, white, brown; bejewelled and calloused; bony and fat—reaching out to Bobby in death contained enough resolve and strength to make him President, had he lived. They just might have done. But the larger point is that it took his senseless murder for a restless, troubled pluralistic society to bridge its own divisiveness briefly in mourning.

There is a larger point still: In Robert F.

Kennedy, the poor and the dispossessed, the disadvantaged and the persecuted, these non-amalgamated minorities of our society had found a leader to speak to them and thus to speak for them, to tell it like it is. More than anything else, or so it seemed to this observer, the tributes to him bespoke this recognition; particularly did this seem to be so in the faces of those hundreds of thousands who saluted the Funeral Train. For those people, largely, black and white alike, were the Americans who live already on the wrong side of the tracks. Not one extremist showed himself in their midst.

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B-4 Herald Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Editor: Donald Goodenow
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Sirhan Tirade Against RFK Told

Sirhan Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, has been quoted by a national magazine as shouting, "Kennedy should never be President. He's just using the poor."

The magazine said a report of Sirhan's rage toward Kennedy and California School Superintendent Max Rafferty, Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate, came from a Mexican and a Puerto Rican. The story said the pair encountered Sirhan on the night of June 4 in the lobby of the Ambassador Hotel, about three hours before Kennedy was shot.

The report to Life Magazine came from Enrique Rabago, 35-year-old unemployed mechanic, and a second witness identified only as a Puerto Rican.

The article followed by less than a day a statement by gunshop owner Ben Herrick, 42, that Sirhan and two other swarthy men bought four boxes of .22-calibre shells at his San Gabriel store June 1.

The magazine said Rabago and his companion volunteered to tell about their encounter with Sirhan at 9:15 p.m., June 4.

The two witnesses told Life that Sirhan, wearing white pants and a white shirt without a tie, had just been ejected from a Rafferty victory party. Sirhan told the pair he had been refused a drink by a waitress and was tossed out when he made a fuss and contemptuously tipped \$20 "for nothing."

Rabago and the second man told Life Sirhan went into a tirade against "the rich Rafferty people who step all over the poor." Rafferty had just defeated incumbent U.S. Sen. Thomas Kuchel in the Republican primary.

Rabago said he (Rabago) nodded toward the Embassy Room, site of the main Kennedy victory celebration, and told Sirhan, "Robert Kennedy might help the poor."

The statement, according to Rabago's account to the magazine, sent Sirhan into a rage.

"Kennedy, Kennedy, he should never be President. You think he really wants to help the poor?" Sirhan was quoted as shouting in a quavering voice.

"Kennedy helps himself. He's just using the poor. Can't you see that?"

Meanwhile Herrick, owner of the Lock Stock and Barrel gunshop, said Sirhan and two others asked for armor-piercing .357 magnum ammunition at the same time they purchased the four boxes of .22 caliber shells.

"I told them we didn't have it," Herrick said of the heavier ammunition, used by the California highway patrolmen for their .38 calibre revolvers.

Herrick explained: "I don't like to sell that kind of stuff to guys like that," although he does stock the .357 shells. He said he sells them only to police.

Herrick said police told him the ammunition was traced through an invoice for the sale found in Sirhan's car near the hotel after the assassination.

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A-1 Herald Examiner
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Jordan Attorneys Offer to Aid Sirhan

Los Angeles County Public Defender Richard S. Buckley says he has received a wire from two Jordanian attorneys offering to defend Sirhan Bis-hara Sirhan, accused of slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"But if they do, we'd be happy to get out. It's all up to Sirhan. If the defendant wants them and they qualify, then we step out."

The county official, whose office has been in charge of Sirhan's defense since his arrest, June 5, said he doesn't object to the Jordanians trying the case. . . (but) "we either control the case or we get out."

Buckley promised to "reply to that wire. We will not object to their trying the case if they are qualified to do so. But under California law we cannot share responsibility for the case."

Buckley said "this offer was

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A-3 Herald-Examiner
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

4 Lawyers Picked in Jordan to Join Defense of Sirhan

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Four Jordanian lawyers have been chosen to take part in the defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and will be joined by lawyers from other Arab countries, a Jordanian Bar Assn. source said Monday.

The source said the four—Fouad Atallah, Ahmad Eel Khalil, Mohamed Baradei and Hassan Hawwa—were chosen at a bar association meeting attended by Bishara Sirhan, father of the defendant.

The Jordanians "will leave very shortly" for the United States, the source said, and will be joined later by a number of other Arab lawyers.

The younger Sirhan, 24, has been in custody in Los Angeles since the fatal shooting there of Sen. Kennedy June 5.

Offer to Assist

In Los Angeles, public defender Richard S. Buckley said he had received a wire from two Jordanian lawyers offering to assist in Sirhan's defense.

"We will reply to that wire," Buckley said. "We will not object to their trying the case if they are qualified to do so. But under California law we cannot share responsibility for the case. We either control the case or we get out."

"This offer was to assist us, and that we cannot accept. It would seem to me that these attorneys would not qualify to try the case, but if they do we'd be happy to get out. It's all up to Sirhan. If the defendant wants them and they qualify then we step out."

Meanwhile, the elder Sirhan told a news conference in Amman that he believes the prime cause of the assassination was what he called Kennedy's "anti-Arab" speeches.

"Kennedy was promising certain sides to supply them with arms and aircraft . . . and thus provoked the sensitive feelings of Sirhan, who had suffered much from the Jews," he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Could Policing Have Helped?

BY CARL GREENBERG
Times Political Editor

It has been said—and it is true—that Robert F. Kennedy had a fatalistic attitude about the possibility that someone would try to kill him.

After the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, some of those in the upper echelons of Kennedy's campaign felt that the senator then would become the No. 1 target for a slayer.

Still he did not demand special protection and in fact his people discouraged the presence of police who would have held back the crowds that surged around him wherever he went.

Nevertheless, regardless of his wishes, there was, I feel, a special responsibility for plainclothesmen to be assigned while he was in Los Angeles, to mingle with crowds and to attend large public assemblages such as took place the night of his victory celebration here. This regardless of whether he asked for or wanted them.

I do not claim for one minute that their presence necessarily would have prevented Kennedy's assassination.

I do claim, however, that experienced detectives would have done what comes naturally.

★

They well might—I say might—have spotted Kennedy's assassin in the hotel kitchen area and routinely asked whether he was an employee. Had they been told that he was not—that he was just a Kennedy fan, or given some other excuse—I think they would have told him to step outside into the area reserved for the celebrants.

I'm not contending that if this had taken place the slaying definitely would have been prevented. I am saying it might have.

Not even Secret Service, whose men always have impressed me as smooth-functioning operators who know their business, can guarantee that the man they are protecting will not be the victim of an assassin.

The point is that they are there and no one ever knows or will know how many would-be killers their presence has inhibited or frustrated.

The fact is that in every major city where I have ever been with a candidate, I have seen city detectives "shaking down" such places as hotel kitchen areas—a favorite "escape route" for celebrities with a tight schedule—and other detectives planted among dinner guests, and uniformed police near the dais or stage.

In Chicago, only a few weeks ago, I watched a detective captain, a lieutenant and a third officer patrolling the kitchen area of one of the large hotels as insurance against just what did happen here.

With assignment of Secret Service men to candidates now, use of city police may be a moot point. But I think the procedure on not assigning officers, regardless of a candidate's desires and apparently placed in force long before Tom Reddin became chief, is wrong.

There is another aspect of the Kennedy campaign as regards policing that also deserves some attention.

I was in a press car immediately behind that of Kennedy on his campaign visit to Los Angeles in March.

We rode the Hollywood Freeway from the Grand Ave. on-ramp to some point in Hollywood en route to the Greek Theater.

As we moved along that heavily-traveled freeway, a civilian-motorcyclist came alongside the Kennedy car, which was in the slow lane. Suddenly, the youth on the motorcycle reached into his right hand coat pocket and removed an object. It was a camera. It could have been a gun.

Had the motorcyclist lost his balance and careened into a car in the fast lane, either he or some motorist, or both, might have been killed.

★

No motorcycle police were present and none was seen until the cavalcade left the freeway.

My point is that it was immaterial whether Kennedy wanted a police escort. It is my impression that he had no objection to motorcycle police. At least I heard none when San Jose's motorcycle police escorted him from his hotel to a public meeting and saw that he got back to his hotel safely.

It wasn't so much the idea that he was being honored by their presence. They not only were protecting him, they were protecting other motorists from accidents.

They could have done as much here and certainly could have spared a few plainclothes officers the night of the assassination.

On the last day of his first campaign trip to Los Angeles, a special officer of the kind usually seen escorting a funeral cortege, served as an "out rider" for Kennedy on the freeway.

Kennedy did finally get a police escort

here.
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 On his last, long journey.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Flood of Arab Lawyers Willing to Help Sirhan

Attorneys From Jordan, Iraq and Elsewhere Offer to Defend Suspect in Assassination

BY JOE ALEX MORRIS JR.

Times Staff Writer

BEIRUT — A ground swell appears to be developing in Arab legal circles over the case of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

After almost a fortnight in which the lawyers were conspicuous by their silence, the Palestinian-born Sirhan is now threatened with inundation by legal advice from his Middle Eastern compatriots. Lawyers from Jordan, Iraq and the Arab Federation of Lawyers were reported Tuesday planning to go to his defense. Sirhan has not indicated he wanted Arab or any other outside legal help so far as could be determined here. The first offer to take up his case have not yet elicited any response.

This has not prevented others from volunteering. Among the latest was Shafik Ershedat, secretary general of the Cairo-based Arab Federation of Lawyers and himself a Palestinian.

Reports from Amman

said the four Jordanian lawyers had appointed a fifth, Henri Kattan, to go to Los Angeles to sound out the situation before they decide whether to present themselves en masse to Sirhan. Another report said three Iraqi lawyers had similarly volunteered their services.

The slowness of the Arab legal community to respond to Sirhan's plight reflected the near total confusion inflicted upon Arab political ranks by the news that a Palestinian Arab had been accused of killing Kennedy.

Reactions Varied

Reactions have swung clear across the political kaleidoscope, from assertions that Sirhan's alleged deed was the act of a deranged individual and had nothing to do with the Arabs in general, to allegations that the whole thing was a Zionist plot to discredit the Arabs in American eyes.

This is now slowly jelling around the idea that Sirhan — and Kennedy —

are both victims of the Palestine tragedy, and that something of this sort was expectable if not inevitable so long as the rights of more than one million Palestinian Arabs to return to their homeland are denied them.

If the consensus of reaction holds firm on this line, greater Arab sympathy and support for Sirhan is to be expected, observers here believe.

So far, this has been carefully limited to efforts to make sure Sirhan gets a fair trial, and that his motivation for his alleged act of killing Sen. Kennedy is fully broadcast and understood.

There have been no suggestions that he will be deprived of a fair trial.

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Sirhan's Father Plans to Aid Son

JERUSALEM (AP) — Bishara Sirhan, father of the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, returned to Jerusalem Tuesday after making some provisional arrangements in Amman for his son's legal defense.

A spokesman for the Israeli military governor's office confirmed that Bishara had officially applied for permission to go to the United States to see his son, 24-year-old Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, awaiting trial in Los Angeles.

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Birchist charges Chavez linked with Communists

By REX NEVINS

Daily Enterprise Staff Writer

INDIO — A top John Birch Society official here yesterday said he "very definitely linked" farm union leader Cesar Chavez to communism.

Rex Westerfield, public relations director for the society's western division, at a news conference added: "That's a link he's been trying to break for three years, but he can't do it. He's got too many of them in his hip pocket." About six newsmen attended the conference.

CHAVEZ, national director of the United Farm Workers organizing committee (AFL-CIO) couldn't be reached for comment.

Chavez is now in the valley organ-

izing field grape workers in a yet-to-be-called strike against \$15 million-a-year grape industry.

Westerfield told reporters he was not saying Chavez is a "Communist" but he added he was "very definitely linking" Chavez to communism.

TO BACK UP his statement, he handed reporters a copy of "14th Report of Un-American Activities in California, 1967" by a State Senate fact-finding subcommittee on Un-American activities. The report quoted men who knew Chavez as saying he showed revolutionary tendencies.

Westerfield also handed out copies of reprints of an article entitled "The Grapes," which appeared in the society's "American Opinion" magazine in June, 1966.

The article included a photograph of a group of men and women, apparently at a meeting, subtitled "The Revolutionaries Meet; Man with Pipe is Communist Sam Kushner." The State Senate subcommittee's report identifies Kushner as a Communist.

WESTERFIELD SAID that Kushner Saturday evening attended an election called by the union organizing committee to determine whether grape field workers wanted the union to represent them in bargaining with growers.

In the same photo, Westerfield pointed to a man in a "light-colored sweater" whom, he said, the FBI was investigating as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the man accused of shooting Sen. Robert Kennedy.

Speaking of the union's election here Saturday night, Westerfield said, "Anyone could vote whether he was a worker or not."

WESTERFIELD SAID HE came to Indio "on his own," although he was invited by some society members who are friends of grape growers.

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B-5

Daily Enterprise
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ASSASSINATION GRIEF**Real, Imaginary Ills
Caused by Slayings****BY DAVID JEWELL**

Exclusive to The Times from the Washington Post

WASHINGTON—Some people have become so grief-stricken over the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy that they have suffered real and imaginary physical illness as a direct result.

Five Washington doctors say that they and many of their colleagues have treated patients for what is called the grief syndrome and said a similar, larger outbreak of cases occurred following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

One doctor reported a patient of his suffered what appeared to be a mild stroke—blurred and double vision, numbness on one side of the body—when there was nothing physically wrong.

He said it turned out these symptoms were induced by remorse the man felt over Sen. Kennedy's murder.

The five doctors said

that most of the grief-inspired cases concerned minor complaints ranging from headaches to upset stomachs and backaches.

They all said there was a much higher rate of such

patients in late 1963 and early 1964 after President Kennedy was killed.

A national expert on the study of the medical effects of grief said that in many instances the illness may not be imaginary.

Dr. George Engel, a professor of medicine and psychiatry at the University of Rochester, said that grief can act as a catalyst to bring together existing physical defects, which add up to illness.

Dr. Engel noted that the 68-year-old wife of the owner of the Memphis motel where Dr. Martin

Luther King was killed suffered a stroke 24 hours later and subsequently died.

He suggested that this and the collapse and death of the 27-year-old Army captain who headed President Kennedy's funeral honor guard detail a week after the President's burial might be examples of the grief syndrome.

Dr. Engel said he thought biological changes in people who suffer grief result in a letdown of their normal defenses.

One Washington specialist

in internal medicine said that patients of his and most of his colleagues had ailments that were traced to "depressive reactions" after the assassination.

He said it was several months after the John F. Kennedy killing that the biggest rash of such complaints occurred. He called this a "conversion" of depression into physical symptoms.

The doctor said that several young people who came to Washington to work for John Kennedy complained, about two years after the assassination, that they felt their lives were aimless and drifting and suffered mild physical side effects.

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Sirhan Dad Seeks U.S. OK for Trip

JERUSALEM (AP)—A spokesman for the Israeli military governor's office has confirmed that Bishara Sirhan, father of the man accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, officially has applied for permission to go to the United States.

Plans for the elder Sirhan's trip to America were announced after he returned to Jerusalem yesterday from Amman where he made some provisional arrangements for his son's legal defense.

In Amman, the Arab Lawyers Federation said a team of five Arab lawyers would go to the United States shortly to prepare for the trial.

The statement said the Arab legal team would be headed by a prominent Beirut attorney, Henry Cattani, but Cattani said he had not been notified of the statement and that the most any Arab lawyers could do would be to assist American attorneys out of court.

"We cannot appear before an American court," Cattani said.

(In Los Angeles, however, it was the belief of members of the Public Defender's office that Arab attorneys would find it "almost impossible" to qualify to represent young Sirhan in court.)

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Sirhan Hires New Defense Attorney

BY DIAL TORGERSON

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan retained a new attorney Wednesday—one he had selected sight unseen last week.

From a list of several names of Los Angeles attorneys, he selected Russell E. Parsons, a slight, peppery man who is, at 69, one of Southern California's best known appeals lawyers.

Parsons went to County Jail, met Sirhan, and was confirmed by the defendant as the lawyer who will defend him on charges that he murdered Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Sirhan, in effect, fired the public defender who has been preparing his defense.

Parsons said he would work for Sirhan without pay. And, he said, he would be joined by another attorney—"a prominent man who has handled many prominent cases"—at a later date.

Asked why he took the case, Parsons replied:

"I'm a lawyer, and this man is in serious trouble. I felt this man was entitled to be represented."

He refused to discuss the case, or his plans for its conduct, but said he had just been researching a legal alternative:

"If a man were not an American citizen," he said, discussing the case hypothetically, "There's a possibility

that he could be deported. There's always a possibility that a man from a foreign country could be deported." (Sirhan is an immigrant from Jordan.)

Parsons gave newsmen these details of how he got the case:

1—A. L. Wirin of the American Civil Liberties Union gave Sirhan a list of Los Angeles attorneys who had agreed to handle his case without recompense. (Wirin had stated earlier that Sirhan was not dissatisfied with representation by Chief Dep. Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield, but wanted to be represented by private attorneys.)

2—Sirhan picked Parsons' name from the list and signed, June 12, a handwritten document requesting that the private attorney replace the public defender.

3—Wirin woke him up at 6 a.m.—at his room at the Elks Club where he stays when not at his Palm Springs home—and met him over breakfast at 7:30 a.m. to say that Sirhan had selected him.

4—Parsons then went to Public Defender Richard Buckley, showed him the handwritten request, and together they went to see Sirhan.

Interviews Him

"Sirhan said in the presence of the public defender that he wanted me to represent him, in lieu of the public defender's office," Parsons continued. "I met the defendant and then interviewed him in his jail cell. He also requested another lawyer."

Parsons then went to see Judge Donald R. Wright, presiding judge of the

Superior Court, and—in the presence of two other judges, three district attorney's men, Littlefield and Buckley and Under-sheriff James F. Downey—presented the little note naming him Sirhan's lawyer.

It read:

"I hereby retain Russell E. Parsons as my counsel, to represent me in my case, Peo. vs. Sirhan, L.A. Superior Court, A. 233421, and request that he be substituted as counsel in the case for the public defender.

(signed) Sirhan Sirhan."

Written by Sirhan

(Wirin said that he wrote the body of the note, because Sirhan suffered a hand injury at the time of his arrest June 5. But, he said, Sirhan signed it in his presence.)

Why was Parsons selected?

He has been practicing law in Los Angeles County almost 50 years, handling many prominent cases, including the so-called "James Rattlesnake Case" of 1935-36, in which a defendant was accused of murder after he thrust his wife's foot in a box of rattlesnakes.

But the main reason he might be recommended to a man in serious trouble is his reputation as an appeals lawyer. He kept the defendant in the rattlesnake case alive seven years, in days when appeals were harder to keep rolling than they are in the 1960s. Among his later cases were:

1—The 1954 Cahan decision, in which the California Supreme Court ruled that evidence illegally obtained cannot be used against a defendant in a criminal case.

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Russell E. Parsons
Times photo

Prominent Lawyer

"He's a prominent lawyer who has tried many prominent criminal cases. But he is now representing a client in court, a client who has paid him a large fee to represent him," Parson said. "If it is known that he plans to be Sirhan's lawyer, it might damage the case of the client he is now representing."

"For that reason, if it is even hinted that he might be planning to represent Sirhan—while his other case is under way—he will withdraw from the Sirhan case."

Other matters mentioned by Sirhan's new attorney included these:

1—He does not expect a change of venue. Said Parsons: "Is there any city in California in which Mr. Kennedy did not plead the cause of the poor and needy?"

2—He has not met Sirhan's family, nor did he meet Sirhan prior to Wednesday. His impression of Sirhan: "He is an intelligent man. He speaks English perfectly."

3—He expects it will be "many months before the case comes to trial. The second attorney will have to review what I'll have done by the time he joins the case."

4—He will be glad to confer with attorneys who might come here from Arab nations to offer assistance to Sirhan: "I'd welcome he' from anyone. A newspaperboy once gave me an idea, and I used it in court. But I don't know if they (foreign attorneys) would be allowed to sit with us in court. I told Sirhan there were some attorneys from Jordan interested in aiding him, and

2—The 1967 Caruso case, which changed the procedure by which suspects are identified by crime victims.

Newsmen questioned Parsons again and again Wednesday—at lunch, at the county Courthouse, at his office. He spoke proudly of his appeals work:

"I file an appeal brief a month. I've been writing appeals since I first started the practice of law."

He said he is proudest of his work on the Cahan case:

"That was a landmark decision," he said. "It used to be a question of, 'Have you got the evidence?' Not, 'How did you get the evidence?'"

Does this mean the other lawyer who will defend Sirhan will be a specialist in courtroom work? Parsons wouldn't say. He accused a newsman of asking "prying questions" when he tried to guess the man's name.

he just shrugged his shoulders. He wants a local lawyer to represent him."

5—Wirin (who has said Sirhan's selection of attorney comes under coverage of the ACLU) has known him (Parsons) since they opposed one another in court in 1938-40, when Parsons prosecuted many labor cases and Wirin defended some of the same suits. Parsons was a top-ranking deputy district attorney under then-Dist. Atty. Buron Fitts.

Parsons said that he personally opposes the death penalty. As to his defending a man free of charge, he said: "It won't be the first time I've

defended someone free. There's a poor devil in trouble and that's enough for me."

The attorney was one of seven candidates for mayor in a 1950 recall election aimed at unseating Mayor Fletcher Bowron. Bowron charged that Parsons once represented underworld figure Mickey Cohen. The election ended in a victory for Bowron.

Parsons heatedly maintained Wednesday that he had never represented Cohen, although he said he represented police involved in police-Cohen scandals of almost 20 years ago.

He also showed considerable ire when news-

men asked him about his age and health.

"That's a prying, personal question," he said. "I come from a family of champions." (His brothers were pre-1920 trackmen at USC.); "I'm in fine physical condition. I walk two miles every night. I take exercises every morning."

Did he have a heart attack five years ago? "No. I had some difficulty a few years back. My doctor says I'm in fine shape. Says I can go hunting, long as I don't try and carry the deer over my shoulder."

What's his age? "In the late 60s. That's good enough. What the hell does it matter? Who're you going to tell? Some girl?"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Text of Sirhan Castro Link Given

At the time Cuban exile leader Jose Duarte was questioned by the Anaheim Bulletin concerning an encounter with Sirhan Sirhan at a pro-Castro meeting, Duarte gave a statement that was recorded on magnetic tape.

Below is Duarte's statement, as he gave it, with only the address of the house deleted.

This I will have to tell you is no different than I told the police officer at the Rampart station.

On the 14th of May (later corrected after checking personal records to mean 21st of May), several Cubans in Los Angeles told me of a meeting that was going to take place at Amesbury. That is in the Las Feliz zone near Griffith Park. They showed me a printed handbill with an invitation because a student had been to Cuba recently, was coming from San Francisco to talk on the Cuban situation in favor of Fidel Castro. And he also was going to show slides of pictures he had taken in Cuba.

We Cubans are very interested in everything that is going on, not only in Los Angeles, but in the world, and the United States, concerning Cuba, Communism, or any favoritism shown to Castro.

So a group of us went that night to this mansion, and a gentleman who was supposed to speak had not arrived yet. I, as spokesman of the group, made contact with several people that were there and told them we were Cubans, we were expatriates, and seriously were going to speak on Cuba, on Castro, on the Cuban revolution and we were entitled to be there.

Should we have to pay to get in or was there invitation?

They asked, how many of us there were. There were about 12 or 14. After a little while someone came out and said that we could go in and wait for the person who hadn't arrived yet from San Francisco.

There were quite a number of people there. I should say about 50. Old people, middle age and young men. I went in on my own and took the initiative to speak to those people. And I told them in the true American sportsmanship spirit, there were two sides to the question that they should hear, that I was asking of them the opportunity either to concur with the person that was going to speak or to challenge what he was going to say.

Since the person had not arrived, a discussion ensued, and a vote was taken. It came out 27 to 28 that they should let me speak, to make time before the person came. Some people opposed it, but while the discussion was going on, this person arrived. He was a young man they called Paul. I heard that he came from San Francisco. Some one said that he had attended Frisco College. I don't know if he was from San Francisco State College or what. And they told him that I was there. Would he give me an opportunity? Would he mind?

Some of the people did mind. They said they had heard the other side of the question, they knew what I was going to say and so forth. Anyway, I quieted the Cubans who worked with me, and he started his presentation. Naturally, his presentation was full of falsehoods, propaganda, derogatory remarks

about the United States, praising Castro. He said a group of them are going to Mexico and some of them have been placed in a car by GI men and have been taken all through Mexico and dumped in Texas.

But the rest had gone to Cuba.

Then he went on to speak very well about Communism, about what the situation was in Cuba, that they had stayed about three weeks, and he went on for about an hour with questions and answers with the people. After he finished, I stood up again and asked for the right to challenge what he had said, based on the vote that had been taken. But some people very energetically opposed that. And they wanted to look at the slides first. He started projecting the slides.

In one moment, he had a slide of the Bay of Pigs, and there was a sign there in Spanish to the effect that here was the place where the mercenaries came ashore.

One of the Cubans that was there by the name of Pereira who was an expeditionary at the Bay of Pigs got very angry. And very angrily he retorted to that. He said that he was not a mercenary, that he fought for his country, that he was a patriot, and he started an argument there.

The lights were turned on. So Paul apologized to him. So he kept on presenting the slides. There was a pause every time he presented something that was favorable to Castro. He presented several slides of the people who had gone there, a group of students.

When he ended, I stood up. Some started to leave. There was quite a commotion. I raised my voice and held them to their promise to stay. Some people wanted to stay. So when I started challenging everything that he had said, there was a small fellow, olive skin, looked like a jockey, about 125-30 pounds, sitting on the side there in a group. And he very angrily stood up and accused me of

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He spoke English with a heavy accent, that I was paid to say that, that that was the same thing that they had done in the Middle East with the Arabs. So people started protesting.

Some people backed him up in what he was saying. I very sternly told him to keep a civil tongue in his head, because he was getting down to personal issues, that I was not going to stand for it, and we were in a private home, and if he did not abide by the laws of gentleman-ship, I was going to take action against him. So he quieted down.

I kept on challenging and making my presentation. And there was a great big argument. Some people disagree. Some people agree. All of a sudden this fellow stood up again and called me a liar. And he said I was being paid by the

CIA once again. So I very heatedly answered him. We started pushing each other. Some people interfered. So they had to calm him down. I was quite excited, also.

So two of the Cubans that went there came to my side because I was alone there. There were about 15 people around me. It was a turmoil. So we started talking to each other in a very loud voice. So then I asked him, and I said that this matter should be settled on the outside, he and myself. And he was ready to do that.

And he started out with several of his friends. And when I started after him, some of the people came and told me to keep my cool and started talking to me. I calmed down. The meeting just broke up. All of the Cubans who were there, some of them were kicked, some of them were attacked. It was a turmoil.

So when I went outside and started looking for him, he had left. We went back in, and the people there apologized. I gave some of them my name. Some of them wanted to hear me on another occasion, because they thought what I had presented was worthwhile hearing. And we left.

When Senator Kennedy was assassinated, when the paper came out, it had the picture of this person. I immediately recognized the person with which I had the altercation. Which was Sirhan Sirhan. Right away I went to the FBI office. It was closed. Some person on the outside. I don't know why he was there. Maybe it was the janitor told me I should go down to the Central Police Station. Which I did.

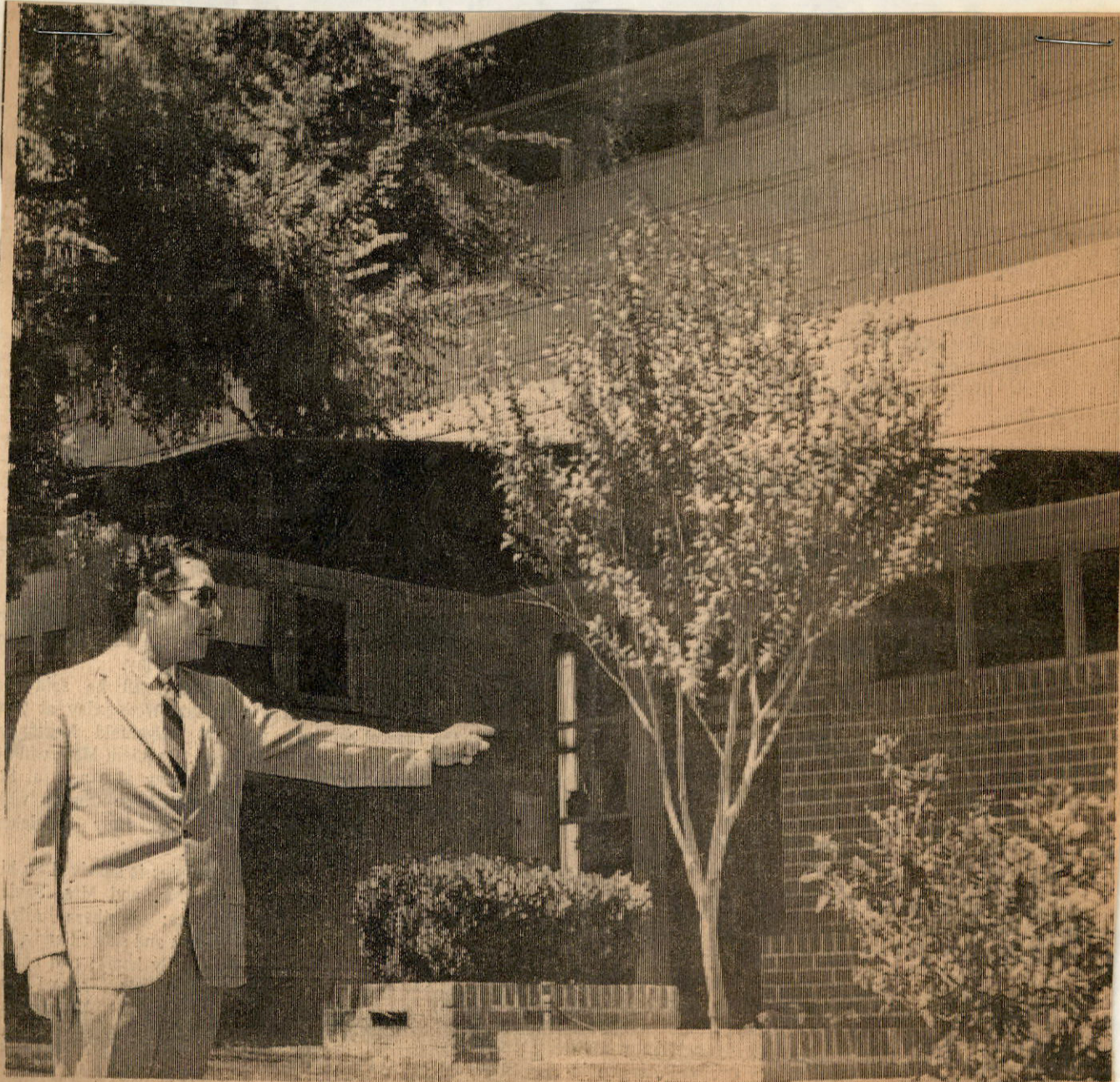
I went downtown to the Los Angeles headquarters. I talked to the man who is the information officer there, showed him the picture, told him I had some information to foster on the case, and he told me to go up to the third floor. I went to the third floor. There was a detective there. I told him the situation how it was, and then he told me this case was being handled by the Rampart division. He told me where the address was, at Temple and Benton Way.

I went to the Rampart Division. I told the same story to the officer in charge of information. He sent me back to the detective division. I explained again to the gentleman who was there. After a little while another gentlemen came in, took me in, and I told him. He showed me some pictures, and he showed me a picture in which I recognized Sirhan Sirhan, which was not the picture that had appeared in the paper. It was a different picture, a profile and a front. He showed me through all the pictures there, including pictures which I did not recognize.

Then I told him what had happened. He asked me if this was possibly the same fellow. I

told him I was pretty sure of it. And then he told me, All right, go home, they would get in touch with me if they needed me.

But what happened was that the rest of the Cubans, when they saw the picture on television, they also recognized the man that I had the altercation with. And they contacted the press media and so forth. And since I wasn't told that I should not talk about this to anyone, I thought I would be interfering with the freedom of the press.



MAJOR JOSE DUARTE SIGNIFIES WHERE MEETING TOOK PLACE
...Cuban says he encountered Sirhan Sirhan at this location

(Bulletin Photo)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Pro-Castro Link in RFK Slaying Claims Sirhan At LA Meeting

**Former Castro Major Says Suspect
Gave 'Angry' U.S. Denunciations**

By SAM CAMPBELL
Editor, Anaheim Bulletin

Two weeks prior to Sen. Robert Kennedy's assassination, the accused killer attended a pro-Castro meeting in the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles, according to information in the hands of the Anaheim Bulletin today. Jose Duarte, a former major in Castro's rebel army, told the Anaheim Bulletin he encountered Sirhan Sirhan at a meeting in a mansion on Amesbury Rd. on Tuesday, May 21.

When Sirhan's picture was published in a newspaper June 6, Duarte said he recognized the man who since has been indicted in the fatal shooting.

Duarte said Sirhan later was identified independently by three other Cubans who attended the May 21 meeting.

Now a resident of Los Angeles, Duarte said he broke with Castro shortly after the successful takeover of Cuba in 1958. He now heads a Cuban exile organization called

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tro regime.

At the May 21 meeting, Duarte said, he got into a scuffle with Sirhan when he (Duarte) began to make an anti-Castro speech.

"He very angrily stood up and accused me of being a CIA agent," the Cuban said. He described Sirhan as "a small fellow, olive skin, looked like a jockey, about 125-130 pounds." He said Sirhan sat in a group and that he spoke English with a heavy accent.

Sirhan accused Duarte of being paid by the Central Intelligence Agency and told the

gathering of about 50 persons that the CIA had done the same thing in the Middle East with the Arabs, Duarte said.

The scuffle broke out some minutes later when Sirhan called him a liar, Duarte said.

"We started pushing each other. Some people interfered. So they had to calm him down. I was quite excited also," Duarte said.

Duarte recounted that he asked Sirhan to settle the matter on the outside and "he was ready to do that." He said Sirhan left the house "with several of his friends."

The Amesbury Road address is located in the Los Feliz area near Griffith Park, Duarte said. He happened to go there May 21 with other members of the exile organization when a handbill fell into their hands. The flyer, he said, advertised what promised to be a pro-Castro meeting.

Duarte said the program consisted of a talk by a "young man" identified only as "Paul." He said the spokesman showed slides of Cuban scenes and of students who had made a trip to Cuba. The talk by "Paul," he said, included derogatory remarks about the United States, praise of Castro, and a description of conditions inside Cuba.

At one point, he said, "Paul" took up a collection for a person whom he identified as "Newton," who was being held by Oakland authorities.

After the assassination, Duarte said he recognized Sirhan's picture in a newspaper. Duarte said he went to the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart Division and picked Sirhan's photograph from among others in the police file. It was not the same photograph that was in the paper, he said.

Duarte said other Cubans who attended the May 21 meeting recognized Sirhan from television pictures.

The information that Sirhan

had been seen at what was described as a pro-Castro meeting came to the Anaheim Bulletin Saturday, June 8. At that time, a Bulletin writer questioned Duarte in Los Angeles. He had talked to the Cuban once previously.

That was in December, 1967, when Duarte appeared in Anaheim voluntarily to answer questions about the attendance of members of his organization at a performance of the Moscow State Circus in Anaheim Stadium, where a stink-bomb was thrown.

Monday, the Bulletin writer went to Los Angeles a second time. He questioned Duarte again, but in a different sequence, and asked to be taken to the mansion on Amesbury Road where the May 21 meeting was said to have taken place.

Duarte agreed to do so immediately. He described in advance what the house would look like and how it would be reached. Duarte directed the way there without hesitation.

Amesbury is a winding road, and the specific address where the May 21 meeting that Sirhan attended is difficult to find.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Discussed RFK, Says Youth in Mexico

JUAREZ, Mexico (UPI) — Attorney's office at El Paso said Mexican authorities are holding a Mexican-American youth who claimed he met Sirhan B. Sirhan in a public library in California and discussed with him how "the Kennedys were gaining dictatorial powers."

The 17-year-old boy, Crespin Gonzales, a native of Ephrata, Wash., told Mexican police he talked to the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in a Santa Monica library. An American official said he did not believe Mexican police put much credit in the boy's story.

Juarez Police Chief Jesus Chacon quoted the boy as saying, "We came to the conclusion the Kennedys were gaining dictatorial powers by their shrewd political maneuvers, and the United States was in danger of becoming a dictator's country."

Jamie Boyd of the U.S.

Attorney's office at El Paso said the FBI was investigating the boy's claims "thoroughly" but that Mexican authorities did not take them seriously.

Boyd said the youth was arrested in Juarez when some papers he had been carrying were lost in a restaurant. Another man picked them up and turned them over to police.

One, dated June 4, appeared to be handwritten statement in which the boy told of a connection with the June 5 assassination, but Mexican police said his role was not specified. Another part of the statement said Sen. Kennedy's younger, and only surviving brother, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., was next in line for assassination.

The boy was arrested by Juarez police Monday as he boarded a bus on the outskirts to head back into the city.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	



—Associated Press Wirephoto

CRESPIN GONZALES IN JUAREZ, MEXICO
Youth claims talk with Sirhan over Kennedys

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Brother Of Sirhan Fights Deportation

The 19-year-old brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, is fighting a deportation order issued against him after he was convicted of felony narcotics charges, an immigration official has disclosed.

Munir Bishara Sirhan, known as Joe, was arrested June 10, 1966, for possession and sale of marijuana. He was tried as an adult and convicted in Superior Court of both charges on Oct. 13, 1966. On Dec. 1 of that year he was placed on five years probation with the first year to be served in county jail, court records disclosed.

But on May 25, 1967, the judge set aside the conviction because Sirhan was a juvenile at the time of the alleged crime and ordered him turned over to the juvenile authorities, the record showed.

The deportation order was issued in 1966, but he appealed

to the board of immigration appeals in Washington, which only just now has begun the process of reviewing the appeal, immigration authorities indicated.

He based his appeal on the argument that he was a juvenile at the time and the conviction had been set aside for this reason. The Immigration Department apparently contended that the judge had no jurisdiction to issue the later orders after the disposition of the case and that the decision to treat him as a juvenile should have been made before, not after, the trial.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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1 JUN 21 1968	
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Brain Damage' Sirhan's Defense?

TOP L.A. LAWYER PARSONS TAKES CASE

Russell E. Parsons, top Los Angeles criminal lawyer who will defend Sirhan B. Sirhan, Sen. Robert Kennedy's alleged killer, has indicated he may argue that Sirhan had suffered from brain damage.

The 74-year-old lawyer said he will have a psychiatrist examine Sirhan "from the tips of his shoes to the top of his head." Sirhan reportedly suffered injuries when he fell from a horse while employed at a race track two years ago. He collected \$2000 on a claim for injuries.

Parsons replaces Wilbur Littlefield of the Public Defender's first court appearance with the Office as Sirhan's counsel. His Jordanian will be June 28, when Sirhan is scheduled to enter a plea to murder indictment.

A. L. Wirin, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, who consulted several times with Sirhan, made the announcement in behalf of Parsons.

"Sirhan Sirhan signed, in my presence, a written retainer agreement retaining Attorney Russell Parsons, a member of the Los Angeles County Criminal Court Bar Association, as his counsel," Wirin said.

Immediately after signing papers dated June 12, Public Defender Richard S. Buckley and Parsons conferred with Sirhan.

"I have been interested in the case all along," Parsons said. "I'm just going to work hard and do the very best I can."

Parsons added that he would serve without fee as a public service.

The defense lawyer is a native of Los Angeles and is nationally known for his trial work. He made legal history in California as the lawyer who got the State Supreme Court to rule that evidence illegally seized by police officers cannot be used against a defendant in a criminal case.

Parsons has had wide experience as both a prosecutor and defense lawyer. He estimates he has tried about 5000 cases.

His first experience in public office was his election as County Attorney of Beaver County, Utah, in 1917. He served two two-year terms. Part of the time he also served as City Attorney for Beaver City.

He subsequently returned to Los Angeles to practice law. In the mid-30s he was one of defense counsel in the notorious case of accused wife-murderer

Robert S. "Rattlesnake" James, eventually convicted of slaying his wife by rattlesnake poison and drowning. After several years on death row, James' conviction was upheld and he was hanged.

In 1938, Parsons joined the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office as a top prosecutor assigned to special cases. He was one of the prosecutors of William G. Bonelli, then the "czar" of California's liquor law enforcement and control accused of accepting payoffs. Bonelli was freed by a court-directed verdict of acquittal and subsequently moved to Mexico.

While a prosecutor here, Parsons was the target of two gunmen who fired at him in 1940 on a street near Whittier. One bullet broke a window on the car, and another hit the engine cowl. Parsons was then participating in an inquiry of Communists and subversive elements in Los Angeles.

In 1950 he permitted his name to be entered as "The People's Candidate" in a mayoralty recall election here against then Mayor Fletcher Bowron. The recall failed.

The campaign was a bitter one, with aggravated charges by both factions. In this campaign, a civic group demanded Parsons be investigated for allegedly issuing small checks without sufficient funds many years before. The charges were thoroughly aired, but no official action was taken because of the business nature of the transactions.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

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130

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

56-156-H-4721

Parsons in recent years has devoted his time to private practice of law, both civil and criminal. He maintains offices at 205 S. Broadway.

He was born in Olive Street in the downtown area. His father, Harry Parsons, was a noted contractor and builder. His mother was Lillian Blackburn Parsons, a native of Petaluma, Sonoma County, whose family crossed the plains in a covered wagon. His parents settled here when the population of Los Angeles was only 17,000 persons.

His father was one of the builders of the Third Street Tunnel, the U.S. Grant Hotel in San

Diego and the Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City, and many other private and public buildings throughout the west.

Parsons attended the Sixteenth Street Grammar School, the Thirtieth Street and Jefferson Street Schools, Los Angeles High School, and the University of Southern California. He has been active in the Native Sons of the Golden West, Ramona Parlor; Elks Lodge 99, and Eagles Lodge, Hollywood Earle.

He is a brother of Charles Parsons, early day USC sprint star, and an uncle of Charles Parsons Jr., a sprint star of the early 1930s.

Parsons said yesterday he could not comment on the Sirhan case until he obtains a copy of a court order recently issued by Superior Judge Arthur Alarcon restricting discussion of the case.

Sirhan, 24, a native of Jordan, accused of ambushing Sen. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel



—Herald-Examiner Photo
RUSSELL E. PARSONS
Will Defend Sirhan Sirhan

June 12, 1968
 I hereby retain
 Russell E. Parsons, as
 my counsel, to represent
 me in my case
 Pess v. Sirhan, 210
 Superior Court
 Los Angeles 421
 and request that
 he be appointed
 as counsel in
 the case of
 the Public Defender.

Sirhan Sirhan

WITH THIS NOTE, SIRHAN APPROVED HIS DEFENSE ATTORNEY
 Dated June 12, note designates Russell Parsons "To represent me in my case"

shortly after midnight June 5 as the senator concluded a California primary election victory rally, is held in County Jail under the tightest security in Los Angeles history.

"I'll have another lawyer in the case with me, but I cannot give you his name at this time," Parsons told The Herald-Examiner at his office.

"Names of several lawyers were given to Sirhan, and he selected me, as well as one other attorney.

"I agreed to represent Sirhan because I feel there is a challenge as to whether this man can get a fair trial. However, I do think he will get a fair one.

"There will probably be three defense attorneys—there's room

in the case for that many. And I'll have help from my office which has five other lawyers." Asked if he expected "public abuse and threats," Parsons said: "I do not expect these things. Any case with this much emotion and public attention leaves a person in my case exposed to almost anything."

He said Michael A. McCowan of R. Allen & Associates, will be his chief investigator in preparing Sirhan's defense. McCowan is a former Los Angeles police officer.

Parsons said yesterday it would be up to the court whether Arab lawyers would be permitted to help. But he said he would "welcome help from any-

Although four lawyers selected by the Jordanian Lawyers Association cancelled an announced trip after a one-hour meeting with Jordanian Premier Bahjat Talhouni, other Arab lawyers reportedly will be selected by the Arab Lawyers Federation.

Sirhan's father, Bishara Sirhan, has officially applied for permission to come here to assist his son.

Bishara Sirhan said his son suffered facial injuries in 1948 when an Israeli mortar exploded near him. The father also said his son had seen Arabs killed by Israeli terrorists and a woman stabbed by an Israeli dagger before the family moved to the United States.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Healing Satisfactorily, Pitchess Says

Injuries suffered by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan in the struggle which followed the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy are healing satisfactorily and he is permitted to exercise daily, Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess said Thursday.

Pitchess said the prisoner has received a visit from the Jordanian consul

for an interview which was conducted in English, with Sirhan's lawyer present.

A request for a second interview, to be conducted in private and in Arabic, was refused, the sheriff said.

Legal papers officially naming Russell E. Parsons to replace chief trial deputy public defender Wilbur Littlefield as Sirhan's attorney of record were signed at the County Jail Thursday.

Parsons went to the jail to sign the documents, as did Littlefield.

Sirhan is to appear in court for plea June 28 and Parsons indicated he will

ask a continuance at that time. The Jordanian is charged with the murder of Sen. Kennedy and with five counts of assault with intent to commit murder against spectators.

Meanwhile, Pitchess said Sirhan is being treated for the injuries by the jail's medical staff and his food is prepared in a kitchen separate from the one where other prisoners' meals are cooked.

The meals, however, are no different from those served other prisoners, according to Pitchess, and Sirhan receives only "normal prisoner privileges" in the isolated section of the jail he occupies.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-27 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Edition: Home
Author:
Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title: KENSALT

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Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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FBI—LOS ANGELES	

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6/21

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

LA Police Chief Reddin: 'Violence Begets Violence'

By BOB HULL

"It is my personal opinion that violence begets violence," L.A. Chief of Police Thomas Reddin yesterday told a luncheon meeting of the Hollywood Radio and TV Society. "But I don't go around pushing legislation banning violence (from TV and movies). I dissipate my energies in other ways," he quipped.

While admitting to the 200-plus audience of broadcasting and advertising executives that he had not seen a definitive study on the correlation of on-screen violence to on-street mayhem, the local lawman did suggest that the entertainment industry in Southern

California bears "a responsibility" in the matter.

Reddin, flanked on the Beverly Wilshire Hotel podium by HRTS outgoing president Herminio Treviasas and new president Ben Hoberman, plus personalities Ben Alexander, Howard Duff and Danny Thomas, also replied to a question concerning recent Supreme Court decisions on pre-trial publicity in the matter of capital cases, such as the Sirhan B. Sirhan story:

"We stand well on this particular case," he said, "mainly because myself and District Attorney Evelle Younger met and planned what we should do in giving out information. It was well . . ."

He was interrupted by his questioner who noted that one man obviously was not present at the meeting — meaning Mayor Sam Yorty.

Reddin laughed. "I have an agreement with my boss. That is, I'll never comment on his comments.

"Actually, what he said, in my opinion, obviously could not prejudice the entire case. The information he released was not even submitted to the Grand Jury. And, after all, he is an attorney and should know what he is doing."

In his prepared speech, which some in the audience likened to his "Let your policeman know you love him" public relations drive, Chief Reddin also made a request of the broadcasters. "Discourage the alarmist speaker, the gloom and doom prophet, the one who would be divisive. They should not get the kind of platform they receive today . . ."

"The policeman today is the middleman in our society," the Chief said. "He has emerged as the representative of the establishment. . . . The conflict boils down to a confrontation of the policeman and those who would solve the problems of social injustice, poverty, housing, and all the rest — and the policeman has nothing to do with those problems. He merely is the one assigned to keep law and order."

While praising the broadcasters, advertisers and newsmen as the most enlightened group anywhere, Reddin called for "the opinion-molders — you, gentlemen — to back law enforcement and to encourage civil stability."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P. 1

The Hollywood Reporter
Hollywood, California

Date: 6/19/68
Edition:
Author: Bob Hull
Editor: James Powers

Title:
Thomas Reddin
Chief of Police
Los Angeles, Calif.

Character:

or

Classification: LA 1-254
Submitting Office:

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1 JUN 21 1968	
FBI — LOS ANGELES	

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6/21/68.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Witness To Killing**Busboy Troubled In RFK Death**

By United Press International

Juan Romero, the 17-year-old busboy who pressed a rosary into the hands of mortally wounded Sen. Robert Kennedy two weeks ago is a troubled young man.

The jolting experience of seeing a famous man who had just shaken hands with him shot by an assassin has left Romero searching for a meaning in life.

"I always liked people," he mused Wednesday. "I thought they were good. But now I wonder. If people are good, how can such a thing happen to such a man?"

Worries Father

Young Romero's tendency to mull over the scene he witnessed at the Ambassador Ho-

tel worries his father, Falvio Romero.

"Don't think about this," he tells his son. "Don't make a show. It will seem different later."

The day after Kennedy was shot Romero quit his ROTC class at Roosevelt High School.

"I don't like guns anymore," he explains, adding that "everything in the world seems different now."

Photographs of Juan kneeling beside Kennedy were published in many countries, and he has received several letters since the assassination.

Three people have sent him rosaries to replace the one he gave Kennedy, another correspondent sent him a \$10 bill.

"Some people wrote the hotel and said they wanted to send some money so I could go to trade school and learn to make a good living, and this was nice. I would like to do that," Romero says.

Romero, who works six hours a day at the Ambassador Hotel during summer vacation, took a few days off from work following the assassination to pull his thoughts together.

"I think you can be happy and sad all at the same time," he concludes. "I think maybe everyone who grows up is this way. I think that is how you know you have grown up, because you can be that way. And I think now maybe I will grow up too."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2

EVENING OUTLOOK
SANTA MONICA, CALIF.

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Edition:

Author:

Editor: Robert McClure

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4/24

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Cook Meals Seperately In Sirhan's Security

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Super security precautions by the "private" investigative court order which prevents me from making any comment on the case or on Sirhan. I cannot go beyond the remarks quoted by Sheriff Pitchess."

Pitchess also disclosed Sirhan had been visited in jail by the Jordan consul here and the consul expressed approval of the unusual security afforded the prisoner.

Reached by the Herald-Examiner at the Jordanian consulate, George Zraikat said: "He is presently detained in an isolated section of the Men's

central Jail and is under constant observation by jail deputies. Sirhan's food is prepared in a kitchen separate from the ones in which all other inmates' food is prepared. The food provided Sirhan is no different in any way than the food served to other inmates.

"The medical staff of the county jail system reports that he previously reported injured finger, ankle and knee are progressing satisfactorily. Other than a splint on the injured finger, it is the opinion of the medical staff that his injuries do not present a handicap at this time.

"His appetite is good and he has made no complaints regarding his treatment while in the county jail system.

"He is permitted exercise in a 30-foot corridor and has no contact with any other inmates in County Jail.

"He is allowed to have reading material in accordance with jail rules and regulations and he receives the normal prisoner privileges. No more nor less are permitted him than any other inmate in the county jail.

"All mail which is received by the sheriff's department addressed to Sirhan is delivered to his attorney of record.

"Sirhan's food is prepared in a kitchen separate from the ones in which all other inmates' food is prepared. The food provided Sirhan is no different in any way than the food served to other inmates.

"On Tuesday, June 18, Sirhan requested a visit with the consul of Jordan. Arrangements were made for the local representative of Jordan, Genge Zraikat, to visit with Sirhan in the presence of deputy public defender Liber Littlefield.

"Consul Zraikat expressed his satisfaction with the physical arrangements of Sirhan's confinement and praised the security measures taken by the sheriff to insure the safety of the defendant.

"Jordan diplomats, through the U.S. State Department, expressed dissatisfaction that the interview granted the local consul representatives had been in English.

"The sheriff refused this request for security reasons and insisted that any visit be in English and that the defendant's attorney of record be present."

Pitchess refused any further comment on the matter in compliance with a court order which regulates discussion of

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4/54

Police Halt Hunt for Mystery Girl in Kennedy Case

Officers Say 'Polka Dot'
Woman Was Product of
Hysteria After Shooting

BY JERRY COHEN
Times Staff Writer

Police investigating the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy canceled an all-points bulletin Friday for the so-called "girl in the white polka dot dress."

After doing so, officers said they had established that no such person ever existed but was the product of a young Kennedy worker's hysteria after the assassination.

"It was determined that the person who originally described the female in the white polka dot dress was erroneous," explained Inspector John Powers, assistant commander of the detective bureau.

The "person" was 20-year-old Sandy Serrano of Altadena, a Youth for Kennedy volunteer.

Said She Saw Girl

Shortly after the shooting, Miss Serrano told reporters that she had seen "a girl in a white dress with polka dots" run from the Ambassador and yell:

"We shot him."

Miss Serrano declared then, "I'm kind of sorry I said anything. But I saw what I saw."

She said she had left the hotel, where Sen. Kennedy was mortally wounded after a primary election night-victory celebration, to catch a breath of air on a terrace.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

She said the girl who ran from the hotel was accompanied by a young man of Latin appearance.

Miss Serrano said she called to the girl, "Who did you shoot? Who did you shoot?"

The girl replied, she said: "We shot Sen. Kennedy."

Bulletin Distributed

Police later questioned Miss Serrano and put out a detailed all-points bulletin on the basis of the description she gave of the mysterious girl.

However, officers and others involved in the investigation were inclined toward skepticism.

Powers, in confirming withdrawal of the alert, said the witness had been "overwrought" after the slaying when she first told her story, now determined to be without factual basis.

"She was the key witness, the one who caused the alert to be put out," the inspector said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 6/22/68
Edition: Morning
Author: Jerry Cohen
Editor: Nick B. Williams
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JUN 24 1968
FBI - LOS ANGELES

Miss Serrano declined comment.

If the girl as described by the witness had been found, Powers said, she would have been considered "a principal" in the case.

Other witnesses also have told of seeing girls in polka dot dresses in the room in which the victory celebration was held. "The room apparently was full of them," said Powers.

However, none has been connected with the assassination and those questions have been put in the category of potential witnesses, not principals.

Meanwhile, Russell E. Parsons, new attorney for the suspect in the assassination, repotred receiving threats on his life.

Michael A. McCowan, a private detective employed by Parsons, who will defend Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, a native of Jordan, said telephoned and mailed threats had been received and that the FBI and U.S. Atty. Matt

Byrne had been advised of them.

"Byrne" confirmed that Parsons had discussed the threats with him, adding: "I told him we would check it out. There was no request for protection."

McCowan said a telephone call received Thursday afternoon came from New York City. The male caller, he added, claimed that Sirhan would not receive a fair trial but would be "sold down the river."

McCowan quoted the caller as saying there are "250,000 militant Arabs" in the United States and "we're going to get Parsons and others involved in the case."

McCowan said Los Angeles police probably will be asked Monday to provide protection for the lawyer, who took the Sirhan case Wednesday.

Police Chief Tom Reddin said at a press conference Friday that Parsons had not yet asked for protection, but that if he did it would be made available "depending on what (kind of threats) he has received and how alarmed he really is."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Parsons Refuses To Name Aide

By NOEL SWANN
Evening Outlook Staff Writer

Describing accused assassin Sirhan B. Sirhan as a "poor devil in trouble," a spy, 69-year-old Los Angeles attorney, Russell E. Parsons, announced Wednesday he will formally represent the man charged with murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Parsons—one of Southern California's best-known appeals lawyers—also disclosed that "another prominent local attorney who has tried a number of prominent cases" will join him in defense of the Jordanian immigrant.

Both attorneys are to work without pay on what will undoubtedly become their most celebrated case.

Parsons disclosed Wednesday he had been personally selected by Sirhan, sight unseen, from a list of four prominent lawyers submitted to the accused man by A. L. Wirin, chief counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union in Southern California.

He said the request from Sirhan had been delivered to his office in the downtown Civic Center area at 205 S. Broadway around 7 a.m. Wednesday.

Immediate Acceptance

"I immediately accepted by telegram," the hawk-faced lawyer—whose fatherly outward appearance hides a tiger-in-the-courtroom personality—told newsmen in his office late Wednesday.

He then met with Sirhan and public defender Richard S. Buckley in Sirhan's cell where the accused formally told Buckley he wanted Parsons and another lawyer substituted for Wilbur Littlefield, of the public defender's office, who up to now has been his official defense counsel.

Later in the day, Parsons said he met with presiding Judge Donald R. Wright of the Los Angeles Superior Court and members of the district attorney's office to advise them of his appointment.

At the later news conference, Parsons said he had not discussed a plea with Sirhan, but indicated indirectly that Sirhan's sanity as a result of brain damage could become the focal point of the trial.

He said he will have his own psychiatrists examine Sirhan "from the tops of his shoes to the tip of his head."

"The man's life is now entrusted to us, and it's up to us to see that he gets the fairest trial possible," Parsons said.

Pleading Speculated

Speaking hypothetically, Parsons indicated it could be possible to plead a client guilty but have the hearing hinge on whether he was competent to stand trial by reason of insanity or use the insanity angle to argue for clemency.

He also conceded it could in fact be possible for an accused man to escape legal consequences for murder if it were ruled he were not fit to stand trial.

Again hypothetically he spoke around the possibility of an alien being deported for a conviction under the various circumstances centered on the insanity and not-fit-to-stand-trial angles.

But he stressed that no firm line has been taken yet and probably would not be until the other mystery lawyer joined the case.

Asked if he believed Sirhan could get a fair trial in Los Angeles, Parsons said he could not answer yes or no to the question.

"Senator Kennedy was well known throughout the country—loved by some and despised by others," he said. If he felt it necessary to seek a change of venue, he would. But he told the newsmen he does not expect a change.

Question Hedged

He hedged on answering a question as to whether Mayor Sam Yorty's statements about Sirhan's background might have prejudiced the Jordanian's case.

But later he said; "If it becomes necessary to get a motion to suppress, we'll do it."

He said he would most likely seek a continuance June 28, the scheduled date of Sirhan's next appearance in court, so that additional investigational work can be done.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2 Evening Outlook
Santa Monica, Calif.

Date: 6/20/68
Edition:
Author: Noel Swann
Editor:
Title: KENS ALT

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To Defend Sirhan

Attorney Russell Parsons speaks to newsmen in Los Angeles Wednesday following the announcement that he will defend accused assassin Sirhan Sirhan. When asked if he would accept help from Arab attorneys, Parsons said he would. (UPI Telephoto.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Polka Dot Girl' Hunt Called Off

From Evening Outlook News Services

There never was a "girl in the polka dot dress," sought for questioning since the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Los Angeles police said today.

An all-points police bulletin has been canceled. It was issued after a Kennedy volunteer reported such a girl rushed from the slaying scene with the cry, "We've killed him!"

Inspector John Powers, assistant commander of the detective bureau, said police have established that no such person with special knowledge of the killing existed.

"It was determined that the person who originally described the female in the white polka dot dress was erroneous," Powers said.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, was subdued at the scene of the shooting in the Ambassador Hotel and has been charged with murdering Kennedy.

In another development, Sirhan's lawyer, Russel E. Parsons, was reported to have received threats on his life.

Michael A. McCowan, a private detective who works for Parsons, said the attorney probably will approach Los Angeles police Monday with a request for personal protection.

Police Chief Tom Reddin said it would be made available "depending on what

kind of threats he has received and how alarmed he really is."

McCowan said a threatening telephone call was received Thursday from a man in New York City who claimed Sirhan would not receive a fair trial and would be "sold down the river."

McCowan quoted the caller as saying "there are 250,000 militant Arabs in the United States" and "we're going to get Parsons and others involved in the case."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1
EVENING OUTLOOK
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

City Board Raps Care at Receiving Hospital

Letter to Council Cites Kennedy Murder;
Police, Firemen Endangered, Group Says

The City Board of Pension Commissioners contended Friday that medical care at Central Receiving Hospital is so poor that city police and firemen are endangered by the city policy under which they automatically go there for emergency treatment.

In a letter to the City Council, the commission cited the June 5 assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy as exposing the hospital as "an emergency hospital facility that cannot in cases of emergency even provide a blood transfusion."

Kennedy, first taken to Central Receiving, was transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital, where he died early June 6. The Hospital Council of Southern California and Dr. M. N. Anderson superintendent at Central Receiving, later defended Kennedy's emergency treatment.

But the commission also cited another case—that of a policeman recently X-rayed and told that a shadow on his lung was of no concern. The officer sought further treatment when fatigue persisted, however, and subsequently underwent surgery for a lung tumor, the commission said.

The Commission, charg-

ing that Central Receiving "Does not meet the medical demands of our time," asked the council to reach a quick decision on the hospital's future. (The council had previously ordered a study of the hospital's facilities and treatment of the city's uniformed personnel.)

"Delay in this decision affects the health and future of men," the commission said, "and may even result in the cost of lives."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan to Enter His Plea Friday in Chapel of Jail

**Courtroom Appearance
Canceled as Work on
Security Measures Lags**

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

The chapel of the new County Jail will become a temporary courtroom again Friday when Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is scheduled to enter his plea before Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

An earlier plan to move the 24-year-old suspect in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to the Hall of Justice for his court appearance was canceled Tuesday when it was discovered that security measures there will not be ready in time.

Massive precautions have been taken, and more are being prepared, to protect Sirhan during future legal proceedings at the Hall of Justice.

A special room on the 13th floor of the building is being refurbished for use in all actions not requiring full courtroom facilities.

Use Sealed Passageway

The suspect will be taken there through a sealed passageway from a temporary holding cell in the old jail atop the Hall of Justice. The same passageway will be used to move him from the cell to the eighth floor courtroom where the trial will be held.

Top floors of the Hall of Justice are almost totally inaccessible to the public. Only jail elevators run above the eighth floor, and new walls and steel doors are being erected for the room on the 13th floor.

Not yet installed, but propped against walls and waiting to be put in place once Sirhan arrives, are heavy steel plates which will block windows looking out on the corridor.

Arraigned in Chapel

Until all this is ready, however, the court will continue to use the chapel at the new County Jail, as it did in Sirhan's single previous appearance. At that time, he was arraigned on a murder charge in the chapel to make it unnecessary for him to venture outside.

The Board of Supervisors Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution declaring that, because "a great emergency exists," any construction required to assure the safety of Sirhan and others involved in the case is exempt from competitive bidding.

The "protective facilities," it noted, will be built by "the mechanical department of the county in cooperation with the sheriff and Presiding Judge Donald R. Wright of Superior Court."

The county purchasing agent's office, it added, "shall furnish necessary materials and supplies."

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County work costing more than \$10,000, by law, requires competitive bidding unless exempted by a supervisors' resolution.

\$20,000 Protection

A memorandum from the county attorney's office attached to Tuesday's resolution estimated the cost of the work for protection of Sirhan and others involved in his case at \$20,000.

In addition, it noted that Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess also plans to employ "armor plate, armor glass, steel plate and wire netting" during courtroom proceedings.

An informed source reported the sheriff contemplates erecting a bullet proof partition of glass, netting and metal parallel to the spectator rail in the courtroom chosen for the trial.

The protective measures are not to be taken on Sirhan's behalf alone. Threats have been received by others involved in the case, including Russell E. Parsons, who took over only last week as defense counsel.

It is anticipated that Friday's first order of business will be for Judge Schauer, who presides over Superior Court's criminal division, to ask Sirhan if he accepts Parsons—even though formal substitution of attorney papers already are on file.

Other Plans

Previously, the suspect had been represented by the public defender's office. Parsons agreed to represent him when he said he wanted a private attorney.

It is unlikely that Sirhan will enter a plea Friday, when court is scheduled to convene at 9 a.m.

Two developments appear likely:

1—Parsons will ask for more time to study the

grand jury transcript, a lengthy document which led to Sirhan's indictment.

2—Parsons, who has said another unidentified lawyer will help him with the case, will seek appointment of another psychiatrist whose report will be used by the defense to help determine the plea.

Dr. Edward Stainbrook, one of the two previously appointed by the court, declined to accept the appointment. The other, Dr. Eric Marcus, it is understood, already has examined Sirhan.

If Marcus has examined the suspect, his findings would be confidential.

Not even the judge or the prosecution would know what he established because, by law, reports of

court-appointed psychiatrists are available only to advise the defense.

The district attorney's office very likely will receive a psychiatric report on the suspect during the trial itself.

Should Sirhan enter a

plea of not guilty by reason of insanity—as the prosecution reportedly anticipates—the judge would appoint still another psychiatrist and his findings would be made available to the court and prosecutor, as well as the defense.

In anticipation of such a plea, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty.

Lynn D. Compton, who heads the three-man prosecutive team, has retained

Dr. Seymour Pollock, a psychiatrist who has been involved in numerous criminal cases here, to serve the prosecution as an adviser.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Cooper Denies Report He Will Defend Sirhan

Attorney Grant B. Cooper Thursday denied a report that he is taking over the defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"Definitely, positively, unequivocally no," Cooper said of the news service report carried on radio.

Cooper is one of the defense attorneys in the current Friars Club card cheating conspiracy case. Attorney Russell Parsons has been retained by Sirhan, but has said a prominent trial attorney currently engaged in another case would join the defense later.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Trial Room Turning Into 'Armored Fortress'

A portion of the Hall of Justice at Temple Street and Broadway is being turned into a virtual armored fortress in preparation for the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the suspected killer of Robert F. Kennedy.

The Board of Supervisors, labeling the trial "a great emergency," yesterday voted to authorize expenditure of an estimated \$20,000 to protect Sirhan as well as the judge and the jury.

Plans call for armor-plated courtroom partitions, bullet-proof glass, steel plate, and wire netting as security precautions.

Sirhan is scheduled to leave the County Central Men's Jail Friday for the first time since he was arrested in a corridor of the Ambassador Hotel June 5, moments after Kennedy was fatally wounded and five others injured in a burst of gunfire.

The Friday date was set last month when Sirhan was ar-

raigned in a make-shift courtroom in the jail and ordered to report to court June 28 to enter his plea.

His attorney, Russell E. Parsons, however, may ask for a delay of the plea hearing to allow more time to prepare his case. He became defense attorney a week ago today.

Current activity in the Hall of Justice, where it is believed Sirhan will be tried, is concentrated on the ninth floor — a "buffer zone" between the old County Jail above and courtroom facilities below.

Workmen are installing partitions in two corridors on the ninth floor, hanging steel doors and preparing two large picture windows so they can be shuttered with steel panels.

The board voted the emergency funds yesterday after Supervisor Kenneth Hahn introduced a resolution declaring "a great emergency exists which re-

quires the construction of protective facilities in order to conduct County operations and avoid danger to life and property."

The resolution called for construction of the protective facilities "by the mechanical department of the County in cooperation with the Sheriff..."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

For Assassination Trial

Sirhan To Get Bulletproof Cage

Construction of a bulletproof cage to protect Sirhan B. Sirhan during his trial for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was approved today.

The Los Angeles County supervisors adopted a special resolution declaring that "it is necessary that certain facilities be constructed in county buildings in order to protect life and property" during Sirhan's trial.

Supervisors said the protective facilities, estimated to cost \$20,000, must be built on an "emergency" basis without formal bidding.

Asst. County Counsel David Mix said that Sheriff Peter Pitchess plans to "install metal plates on the bars of one jail cell, a 'chute' or separate passageway in the courthouse corridor and courtroom partitions consisting of armor plate, armor glass, steel plate and wire netting."

Under this setup, Sirhan apparently could be transported from his jail cell to his bullet-

proof courtroom cage without ever being exposed to the public.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who authored the resolution permitting the emergency work, said the precautions will provide "all the protection necessary for everyone involved."

The money will not be spent, Hahn added, if Sirhan's attorneys obtain a change of venue.

County officials are taking extraordinary precautions to avert the possibility that Sirhan will suffer the fate of Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy in 1963. Oswald was shot to death in a Dallas police station by night club owner Jack Ruby before he could be brought to trial.

Under terms of the emergency resolution, county crews, rather than employees of outside contractors, will do the work.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2
EVENING OUTLOOK
SANTA MONICA, CALIF.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Yorty Hits Judicial Ban on Discussion of Kennedy Slaying

BY ERIC MALNIC
Times Staff Writer

Mayor Sam Yorty said Wednesday that Superior Judge Arthur L. Alarcon "probably exceeded his authority" in prohibiting the mayor and others from discussing the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"A judge can't sit up there in court telling everyone on the outside what they can do and cannot do," Yorty told his weekly City Hall press conference.

"The public, particularly in a case like the assassination of Sen. Kennedy, where you have political implications, is entitled to as much information as it can reasonably be given."

Judge Alarcon issued his order for silence on June 7 in an effort to make sure that the accused assassin, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, receives a fair trial.

Legal Experts Voiced Concern

Some members of the legal profession expressed concern over possible inadmissibility of evidence as a result of Yorty's remarks about the case before the order was handed down.

Criticism of Yorty's remarks—some of it from Atty. Gen. Thomas C. Lynch and Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger—centered on discussion of two stenographic notebooks allegedly found in Sirhan's Pasadena home.

Yorty, although agreeing to abide by the ban, defended his remarks.

"I revealed whatever was necessary to prevent rumors and possible violence, and no more," he told a June 11 press conference.

The mayor said Wednesday he felt that on the whole, "criminal justice in the United States is very sick."

"It's a game of technicalities, not a search for truth," he said.

Noting that a Los Angeles policeman, Ian James Campbell, 31, was murdered near Bakersfield more than five years ago, Yorty said the

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case "is still being subjected to delays.

"The game goes on."

(Gregory U. Powell, 34, and Jimmy Lee Smith, 37, found guilty of the murder and sentenced to death in 1963, are now awaiting new trials granted on the basis that they were not properly informed of their rights.)

Turning to other matters, Yorty professed little interest in the Committee for the City, a group formed last week to do something about the "lack of leadership" from City Hall.

Asked if the group is engaged in a "stop Yorty" movement, the mayor said: "It wouldn't make any difference to me."

Asked about the charge of inadequate leadership, he said:

"That sounds exactly like the L.A. Times . . . Leadership is how you view it."

He said his administration is "doing everything we can" to find jobs for the unemployed, adding that Los Angeles is "apparently first in the nation in low-cost housing plans."

When Dr. Werner Hirsch of UCLA, chairman of the committee, was

asked if his was a "stop Yorty" drive, he replied that "we are a positive group . . . (more) interested in identifying the major problems of the city."

But Norbert Schlei, another committee leader, said one of those problems is "lack of leadership" from City Hall.

Next to the President, Schlei said, the job of mayor of Los Angeles is probably the most important elective post to the people of this city because of the leadership role a mayor can play in meeting

increasing urban problems.

When asked about current agitation for local gun registration laws, Yorty repeated his earlier comment that the city attorney's office feels such laws are the responsibility of state officials, not local authorities.

"The bill of (Assemblyman Winfried A.) Shoemaker (D-Lompoc) now pending before the Legislature sounds like a very good legislative enactment," the mayor said.

"If the state does not

enact (gun control) laws, we will have to enact them locally, realizing they

would not be too effective.

"National laws are what would be really effective."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Plea Delay Seen

Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused of the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, makes his second court appearance tomorrow, but a three-week continuance for him to enter a plea is scheduled.

Sirhan's newly appointed attorney, Russell E. Parsons, said he would ask the court for a continuance in the hearing, which his client will enter a plea, to enable Parsons to study all phases of the case.

Parsons said that the County Grand Jury transcript of the hearing that led to Sirhan's indictment consists of hundreds of pages, requiring time to study.

It is believed that Parsons will seek appointment of a second psychiatrist to examine Sirhan. The Superior Court earlier appointed two psychiatrists to interview Sirhan in County Jail, but one of them, Dr. Edward Reinbrook, declined.

The other psychiatrist, Dr. Eric Marcus, has examined the accused and the results of such examination, available only to the defense, would be used by Parsons to help determine what plea Sirhan should enter to the charge against him.

If Parsons decides his client should plead insanity, which the prosecution anticipates, the judge then would appoint still another psychiatrist whose findings would be available to the court and the prosecution as well as the defense.

An additional delay in Sirhan's trial date is expected to be sought by Parsons.

This delay is anticipated when the second defense counsel, still unidentified because he is in court with another case, enters the Sirhan proceedings. Arguments for the delay will center on the point that the new attorney must be given time to familiarize himself with the case.

When the proceedings open before Judge Richard Schauer in the chapel of the new County Jail at 9 a.m. tomorrow, it is expected that the first order of business will be for the judge to ask Sirhan if he accepts Parsons as his counsel instead of a court-appointed public defender.

This move is necessary because Sirhan last week requested Parsons to defend him in place of a court-appointed public defender.

Sirhan has made no public statement since the June 5 shooting at the Ambassador Hotel. He has been seen by newsmen only twice since then—in the Hall of Justice the day of the shooting and when arraigned in the County Jail chapel June 7.

While Sirhan will be given a public trial, a view of him at tomorrow's hearing again will be limited to newsmen and officials.

Presiding Judge Richard Schauer and Sheriff Peter J. Pritchess said yesterday in a joint statement that photographs or interviews or both will not be permitted. In addition,

the court also ordered cameras, tape recorders and other electronic equipment excluded from the courtroom-auditorium during proceedings.

The courtroom-auditorium is in the Los Angeles County Men's Central Jail at 441 Bauchel St. The same security measures, enacted at the arraignment of Sirhan, will prevail at tomorrow's proceedings.

Held without bail, Sirhan's detention has been marked by the tightest security measures ever seen here. His public trial will be similarly protected because of threat against him.

Workmen already are turning parts of the Hall of Justice, at Temple Street and Broadway, where the trial will be held, into a virtual armored fortress and County supervisors have authorized expenditure of up to \$20,000 for a protective courtroom enclosure.

The armor-plated, bulletproof glass enclosure will seal off the defendant, judge, jury and attorneys from the press and public during the trial.

The Hall of Justice has jail facilities on the 10th floor and courts on the ninth floor, and it is on the courtroom floor where workmen are installing partitions in two corridors, hanging steel doors and preparing two large picture windows so they can be shuttered with steel panels.

Meanwhile, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn said the trial of Sirhan will be the most famous in California and the protective measures are to insure his right to a fair trial.

Hahn asked the Board of Supervisors to approve funding for the courtroom protection after security discussions with the sheriff and Superior Judge Donald R. Wright.

Hahn said that if Sirhan's attorney asks for and gets a change of venue for the trial, the courtroom enclosure will not be built—but "the word we have now is that they will not ask for a change of venue."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Granted Additional Time for Making Plea

Tightly Guarded Court Session Indicates Trial Is Still a Long Way Off

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan made his third and briefest appearance in court Friday and, though the seven-minute proceedings were routine, it became evident that the trial of the slight Jordanian-immigrant is a long way off.

Amid even greater security precautions than were in effect at his arraignment in the same chapel of the new county jail three weeks ago, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy waived his right to be tried within 60 days of his June 7 indictment.

Superior Judge Richard Schauer required Sirhan to give up his right to a trial within the statutory period after Russell E. Parsons, his attorney, sought additional time to enter a plea—or pleas.

Continued to July 19

At the request of Parsons, Judge Schauer continued the matter until 9 a.m. July 19. The site of the next court appearance was not determined.

Parsons, who only recently entered the case as Sirhan's attorney, said he needed more time to study the lengthy grand jury transcript.

The first order of business, however, came when Judge Schauer asked Sirhan if he wanted Parsons to defend him.

"Yes sir, we do," was the defendant's reply.

Before Parsons entered the case, Sirhan was represented by the public defender's office.

Psychiatrist Declines Assignment

Dr. George Y. Abe was appointed to conduct a general psychiatric examination of Sirhan because one of two psychiatrists previously named to do so declined the appointment.

Parsons asked that Dr. Abe's findings remain confidential and be reported to him "as expeditiously as possible."

From statements made by Parsons it became apparent during and after Sirhan's appearance in the makeshift courtroom that the trial will become a test of the defendant's capacity to understand the nature and consequences of his acts.

Such an understanding by him is necessary if Sirhan is to be convicted of first-degree murder.

Parsons told newsmen that he had "grave doubts" as to whether Sirhan knew what he was doing on election night when, according to eyewitnesses, he fatally shot Sen. Kennedy and wounded five other persons.

For the first time, the prosecution, represented in court by Dep. Dist. Attys. John E. Howard and David N. Pitts, came armed with its own psychiatrist.

Observing every movement of Sirhan from his front row seat was Dr. Seymour Pollack, veteran psychiatrist recently retained by the district attorney's office as an adviser.

About 150 spectators, most of them members of the press, were in court. Everyone except Judge Schauer and Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess was searched.

One of the observers was Adel Sirhan, 29, one of the 24-year-old defendant's four brothers. He also sat in a front row seat, and was flanked by officers as a protective measure.

Parsons revealed that Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the defendant's mother, plans to see her son for the first time Monday. He said Adel previously visited his brother.

Although Parsons would

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not discuss the case, he did give newsmen some of his impressions of his client.

He described Sirhan as a man devoted to his family, quiet and pleasant appearing, but added:

"He looks like a lot of people from that part of the world who have encountered pain and suffering."

Dressed in navy blue pants, a light blue shirt, and black shoes, Sirhan strode briskly into court Friday and stood when addressed by Judge Schauer. At his last court appearance, he was brought in by wheelchair and sat throughout the proceedings.

Although he walked into and out of the courtroom on his own Friday, Sirhan was brought from his cell to a point just outside the room in a wheelchair.

The jail's medical staff requested use of the wheelchair, saying he has not recovered from a sprained ankle suffered during his capture at the Ambassador June 5.

Sirhan appeared to become angry at one point when one of the sheriff's deputies, who ushered him into court, bumped him slightly.

Five uniformed officers again stood behind Sirhan as he faced the judge. One of them appeared to be also offering protection to Parsons, who reportedly has been the recipient of some threats on his life.



SUSPECT AFTER HEARING—Sirhan B. Sirhan goes back to his cell in a wheelchair following his seven-minute hearing in County Jail chapel. Times photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Plea Of Insanity Is Expected

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is in County Jail, waiting out a three-week delay in entering his plea to a charge of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, a delay that will shape the course of his coming trial.

Appointment of a defense psychiatrist yesterday gave support to recurring reports that an insanity plea will be part of his defense.

Sirhan once claimed in an accident compensation case that he suffered a head injury in a fall from a horse.

The Jordanian immigrant appeared yesterday before Superior Judge Richard Schauer and had his scheduled plea postponed until July 19.

It was only the second time Sirhan appeared in public since he was arrested in the Ambassador Hotel corridor where Kennedy was mortally wounded and five others injured in a burst of gunfire after Kennedy's jubilant state primary victory statement to supporters.

The tightest security regulations in the history of the coun-

ty, maintained since Sirhan was taken into custody, again were in evidence as he was shielded from the courtroom spectators by five sheriff's deputies. Additional uniformed, unarmed deputies were stationed throughout the makeshift courtroom, and plainclothesmen sat among the spectators—mostly newsmen and photographers—their eyes constantly moving over the crowd.

Sirhan, although he showed some signs of nervousness, walked from his wheelchair at the door of the jail chapel to his place before the judge with firm steps, his head up and shoulders back.

He spoke only 14 words during the proceedings—in two-to-four-word phrases ("Yes Sir," or "Yes Sir, we do")—confirming his own identity, that he had accepted Parsons as his attorney and that he waived his right to a trial within 60 days of his arrest, as provided by law.

After the hearing, Parsons and Sheriff Peter Pitchess gave permission for the first time for the defendant to be photographed.

Parsons said he had not seen much change in Sirhan's attitude. "He talks with me ... about his family, himself and his case."

The attorney said the Jordanian's family appears "to be devoted to him," noting that Sirhan's heavily guarded brother was in the courtroom yesterday and that his mother would visit him Monday.

He said his client is "quite pleasant-appearing. He has the look of a man who comes from a world that has suffered many pains, much anguish," Parsons added.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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7/2

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An Artist's View of the Sirhan Hearing

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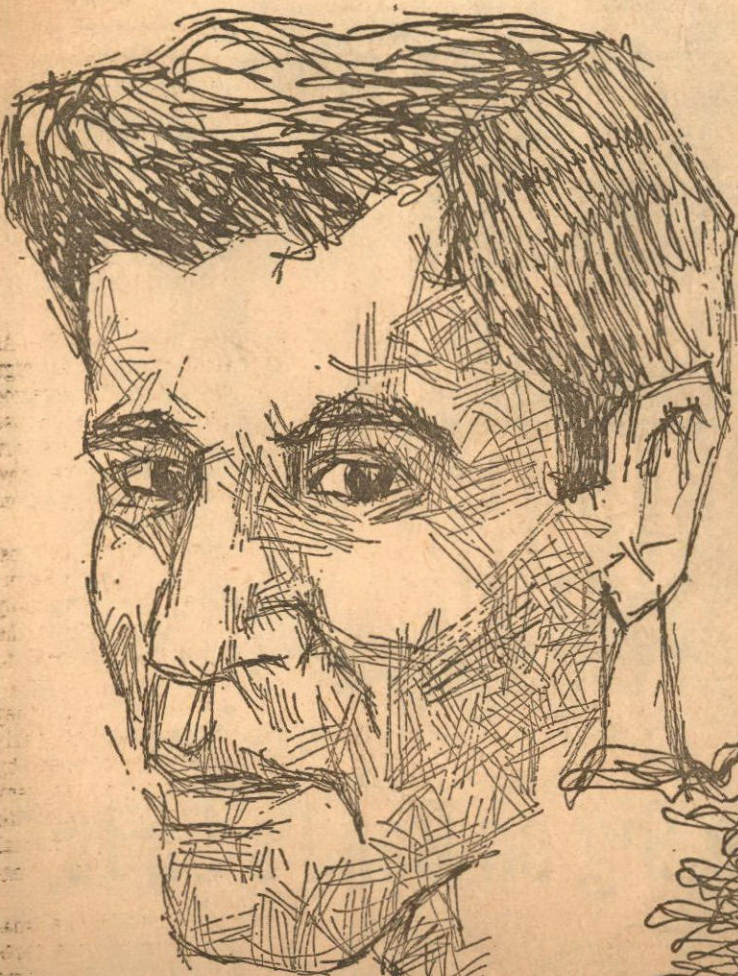
Classification: 56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

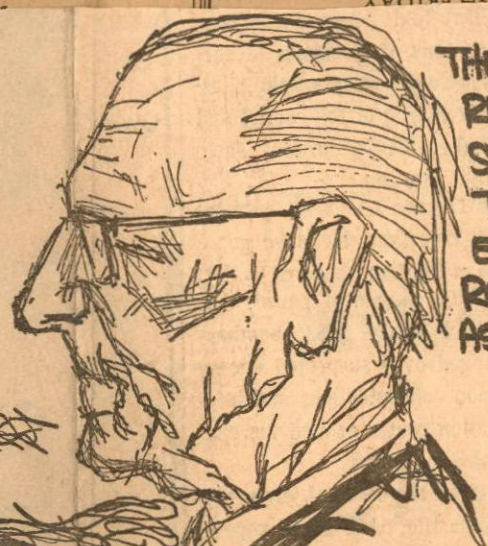
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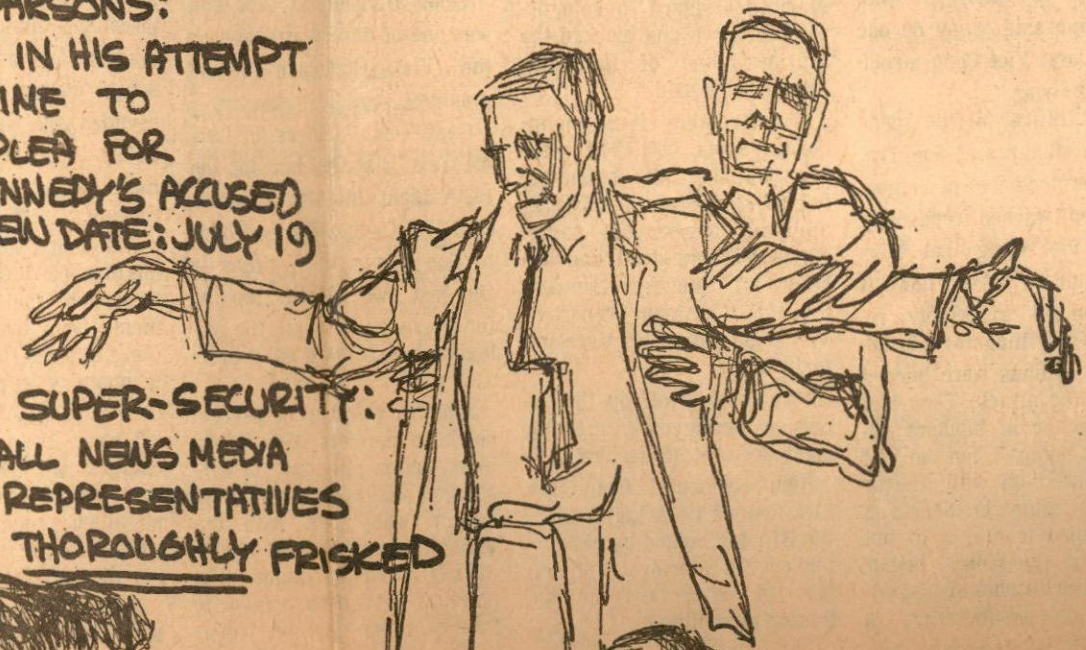
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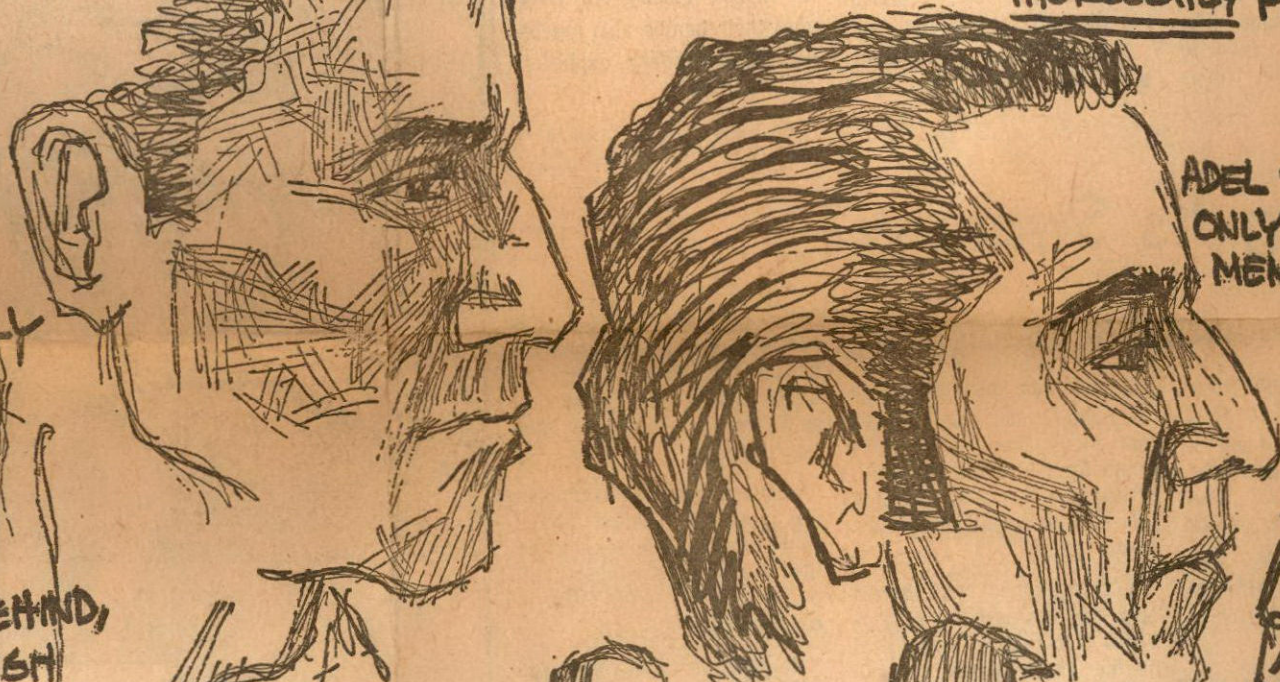
THE ACCUSED:
SIRHAN B. SIRHAN
APPEARED TENSE,
BUT AWARE AT
HEARING, ANSWERED
QUESTIONS INTELLIGENTLY



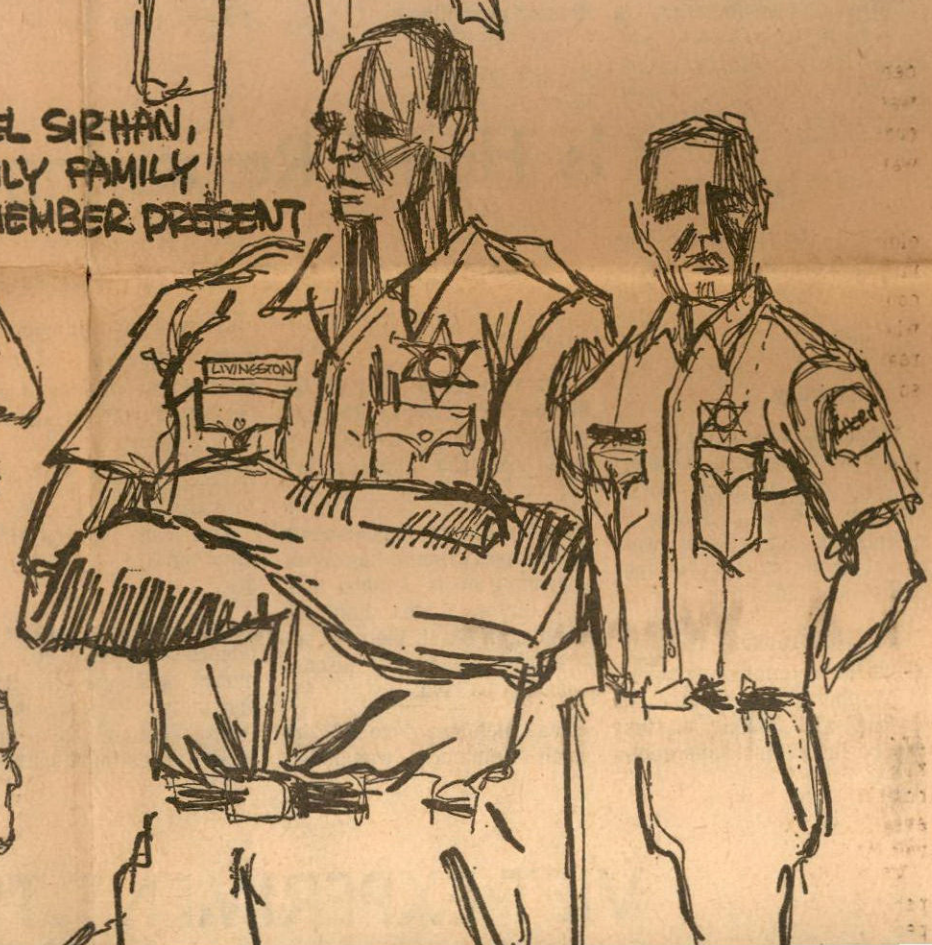
THE ATTORNEY,
RUSSELL PARSONS:
SUCCEEDED IN HIS ATTEMPT
TO GAIN TIME TO
ENTER A PLEA FOR
ROBERT KENNEDY'S ACCUSED
ASSASSIN. NEW DATE: JULY 19



SUPER-SECURITY:
ALL NEWS MEDIA
REPRESENTATIVES
THOROUGHLY FRISKED



ADEL SIRHAN,
ONLY FAMILY
MEMBER PRESENT



LEAVING WHEELCHAIR BEHIND,
SIRHAN WALKED THROUGH
DOOR BELOW INTO CHAPEL
COURTROOM



TWO OF THE MANY, MANY
DEPUTIES WHO WERE
PART OF EXCEPTIONAL
SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

SCHAUER

FOUR BURLY
DEPUTIES
SURROUNDED
THE DEFENDANT
WHILE HE
WAS IN COURT.

EXCEPT WHEN
ENTERING AND
LEAVING, ONLY
SIRHAN'S FEET
WERE VISIBLE
TO NEWSMEN.
AS JUDGE
SCHAUER
PRESIDED

DEPUTY DAs
HOWARD (L) AND
FITTS (R)

SHERIFF PETER PITCHESS:
" HEARING WENT ABOUT AS
WE HAD EXPECTED "

Bryson L Robley

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Four Men Jailed for Explosives

Four young South Bay area men today face complaints of bringing explosives onto jail grounds following their arrest outside County Men's Jail where Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused of slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, is held awaiting trial.

But deputies said they believe the arrest is in no way connected with Sirhan.

Arrests were made when deputies spotted a car parked on jail grounds with the four inside. During a routine search of the car when deputies became suspicious of their presence, two artillery ground burst simulators were discovered along with a quantity of marijuana. The simulators are used during military maneuvers to simulate bursting artillery shells. They produce a bright flash and fireball and are dangerous within 15 yards, military armaments experts said.

Deputies said they believe the four were there to visit a jailed friend and that the explosives—although illegal to possess anywhere—were being saved for use on July 4.

Jailed on the explosives count and another of marijuana possession were Robert Glass, 18, of 1403 S. Catalina Ave.; James N. DeAugustine, 18., of 877 Ave. B, and Mark Wilnot, 17, of 345 Ave. F, all of Redondo Beach, and Robert Young, 20 of 2615 W. 231st St., Torrance.

It was the third incident since Sirhan was jailed in which deputies at the tightly guarded jail have uncovered arms or armaments. Two women visitors were found to be carrying pistols.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A QUESTION OF CASH

Minister Tells Sirhan Plan to Buy His Horse

By JAMES D. WHITE

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Southern California evangelist says he almost sold a horse to the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and now is hiding out in fear of his life.

The Los Angeles police, who he says have his story, decline comment.

The Orange County Baptist minister, who does not want his name used and who will be called Jones, was interviewed at a hideout less than 100 miles from San Francisco.

Present were two of his longtime friends, Oakland private detective Ben Hardister and San Francisco criminal attorney George T. Davis. Both say they advised Jones to stay out of sight and are seeking protection for him and his family. He says he has had two threatening telephone calls.

Here is the gist of his long story:

He picked up two hitchhikers in Los Angeles on Monday, June 11, the day before the California Democratic primary which Kennedy won.

Jones says one of the youths

was Sirhan Beshara Sirhan, the Jordanian accused of killing Kennedy. The other was taller, but seemed to Jones to be the same nationality.

Since Jones is a horseman by avocation and buys and sells horses and Shetland ponies, they talked of horses.

Sirhan wanted to buy a pony to exercise race horses so he could get a job at a race track. Jones had one that suited, but Sirhan said he would not have the price, \$300, until late that night.

Sirhan asked to be let off near the Ambassador Hotel "to see a friend in the kitchen." That night, Sirhan produced a \$100 bill, but said he wouldn't have the rest until 8 a.m. Tuesday.

At that time, Sirhan did not show up. Instead there was an older man who looked like the same nationality and said, "Joe couldn't make it." He said Sirhan really wanted the horse and could pay for it Tuesday night at 11 p.m. if Jones would deliver it at the same spot near the Ambassador Hotel where Jones had let him out.

The Ambassador is where Kennedy was shot.

Jones said he was preaching out of town and couldn't make it. He gave the older man, whom he described as about 35 and expensively dressed, his business card with his unlisted telephone number.

On Wednesday, Jones did not hear that Kennedy had been shot until he was having lunch with friends. A picture of the still-unidentified suspect was flashed on a television show, and Jones said he recognized the youth who had wanted to buy the horse.

The next day, Thursday, he got the first threatening telephone call, he said. An unaccented voice he could not recall having heard before told him:

"Keep your mouth shut about this horse deal if you know what's good for you."

Three days later the voice in another call reminded him he had been warned once before and repeated the profane threat to keep his mouth shut. He told police about the calls, and picked Sirhan's picture out of 30 they showed him.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3 Herald-Examiner
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Indy Terry Owen

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For hands

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

JURIST CAUTIONS SUPERVISORS ON DEVICES

Trial Judge Will Rule on Sirhan

Safeguards

BY JERRY COHEN

Times Staff Writer

Whatever protective devices are needed to insure the safety of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan during his trial will be decided by the judge eventually assigned to hear the case, Presiding Superior Judge Donald R. Wright said Tuesday.

There had been indications that a floor-to-ceiling shield of bulletproof glass and wire netting might be erected to protect Sirhan, the jury, the judge, attorneys and court attaches.

But some judges and attorneys, it has been learned, have expressed fear that it might not be possible for Sirhan to get a fair trial if an overly protective atmosphere prevails in the courtroom.

In a letter to the Board of

Supervisors, Judge Wright said "... any substantial expenditure of county funds beyond those necessary for preliminary planning may be premature."

A week ago, supervisors exempted from competitive bidding any construction required to protect the 24-year-old alleged assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Just as in any trial, the jurist assigned to the case determines what special devices—"if any"—are necessary, Judge Wright pointed out.

He added that the judge probably would consult with both prosecution and defense attorneys before deciding on the matter.

Judge Wright also said that a defense motion to move the case from Los Angeles County, on the ground that Sirhan cannot receive a fair trial here, may be offered.

Such a motion would have to be ruled on and then would be subject to appellate review, all of which would leave in doubt for some time whether the case would be tried here.

Judge Wright said he is concerning himself only with the courtroom, not with other areas under the control of the sheriff. Deputy sheriffs presumably would be empowered to search persons entering the courtroom.

Work in several areas of the Hall of Justice, where the case is expected to be tried, already has begun. It includes sealing hallways and installing steel plates over certain windows on the ninth floor in the

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area through which Sirhan would move from jail to the courtroom.

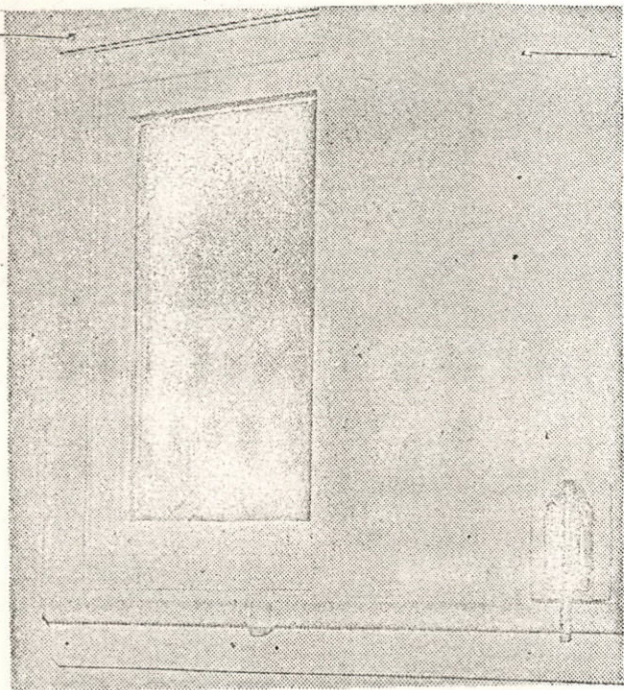
Sirhan's case still is in the pretrial stages before Superior Judge Richard Schauer, who presides over the criminal departments. A trial judge probably will not be selected for some time, Judge Schauer said.

Since the current proceedings are not before a jury, Judge Schauer said he sees no reason to interfere with the present massive security precautions being taken by the sheriff's office.

This includes the stationing of deputy sheriffs behind the defendant during his appearances in a makeshift courtroom in the chapel of the new County Jail.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Path of Fate Sirhan Will Walk Each Day



Steel Shielding Covers Every Corridor Opening

Workmen have completed installation of armor plating in the 9th floor corridors of the Hall of Justice in preparation for the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, charged with killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sliding metal panels over door windows and inch-thick metal plates over windows exposed to interior courtyard walls have been put in their places.

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Only the courtroom in which Sirhan will be tried remains to be chosen and shielded to complete the \$20,000 bullet-proofing project which began last week.

When the courtroom is selected, workmen will construct a transparent barrier completely across the facility, separating Sirhan, the judge, jury and court officials from spectators.

One police official who watched workmen complete the 9th floor project declared "this man (Sirhan) has greater security than even the president of the United States."

Sirhan has been confined in the county's Central Men's Jail since his arrest June 5, after Kennedy was mortally wounded and six other persons injured in a burst of gunfire, at the Ambassador Hotel.

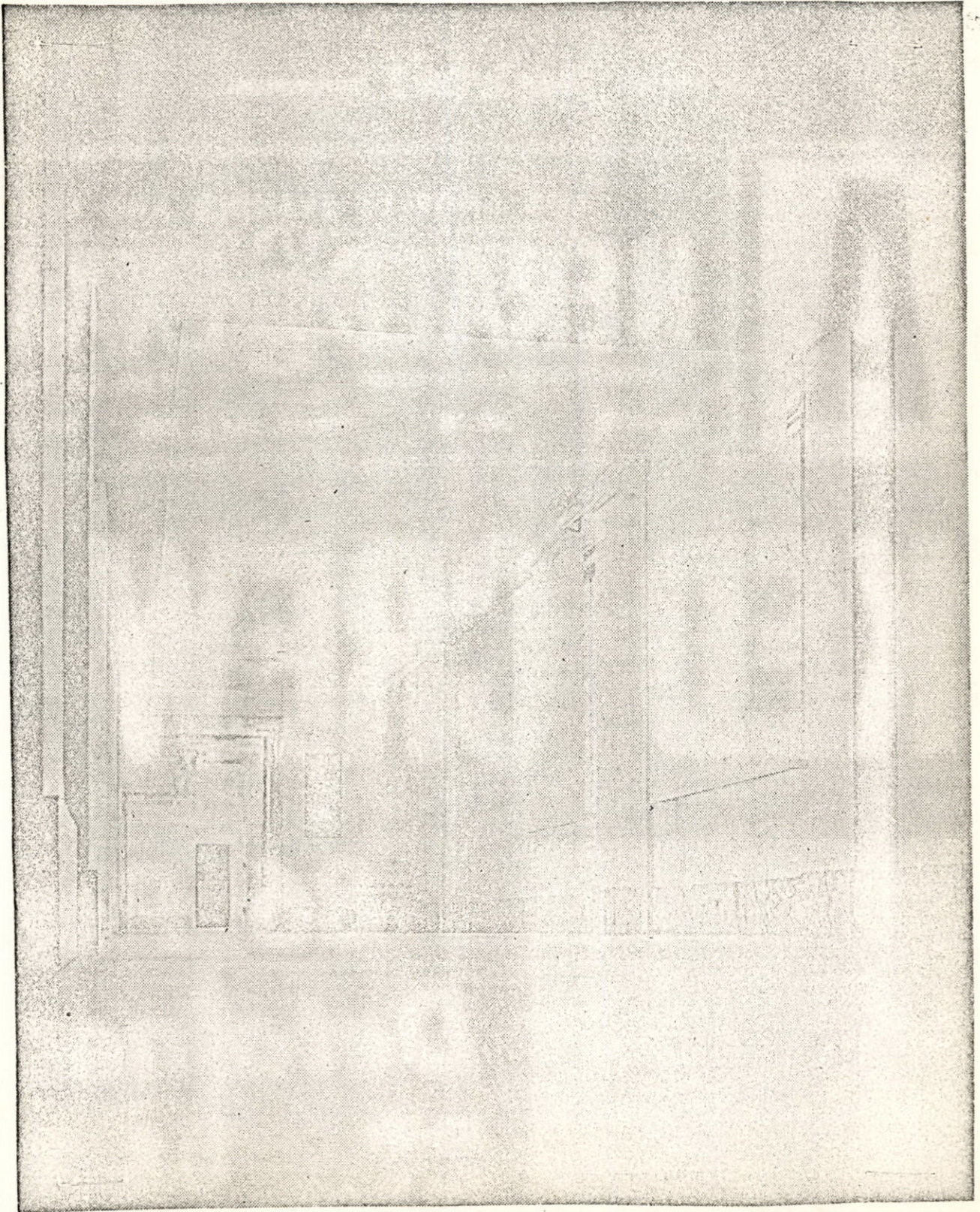
During the trial, it is expected he will be confined to the Hall of Justice jail, located on the floors above the building's 9th level.

Jail prisoners must pass through the 9th floor en route to 8th floor courtrooms. Separate stairwells lead to each individual courtroom.

Sirhan will be brought to the 9th floor and then escorted to the courtroom level by passing through two solid metal doors, each of which has a small window. It was over these windows sliding metal plates, have been placed. They can be controlled only from within the corridor.

His brief journey also will proceed past two 9th floor windows, exposed only to a very few inner windows in the Hall of Justice. These were covered with inch-thick metal plates.

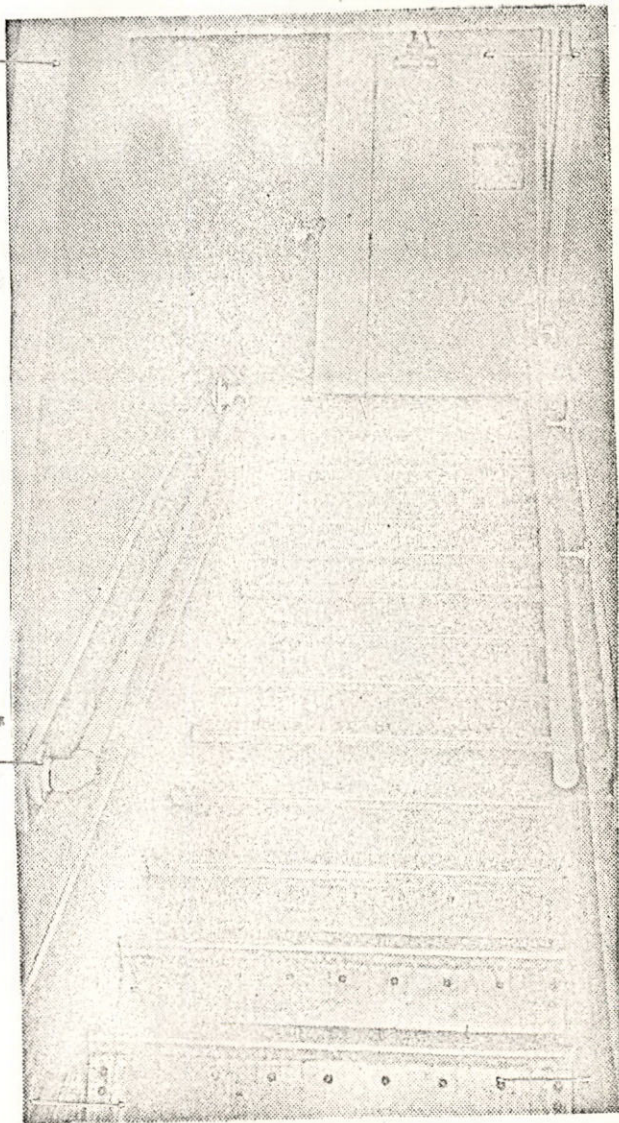
Since his confinement to Central jail, he has been kept under constant guard by deputies inside and outside his cell. Each visitor allowed to see Sirhan is thoroughly searched.



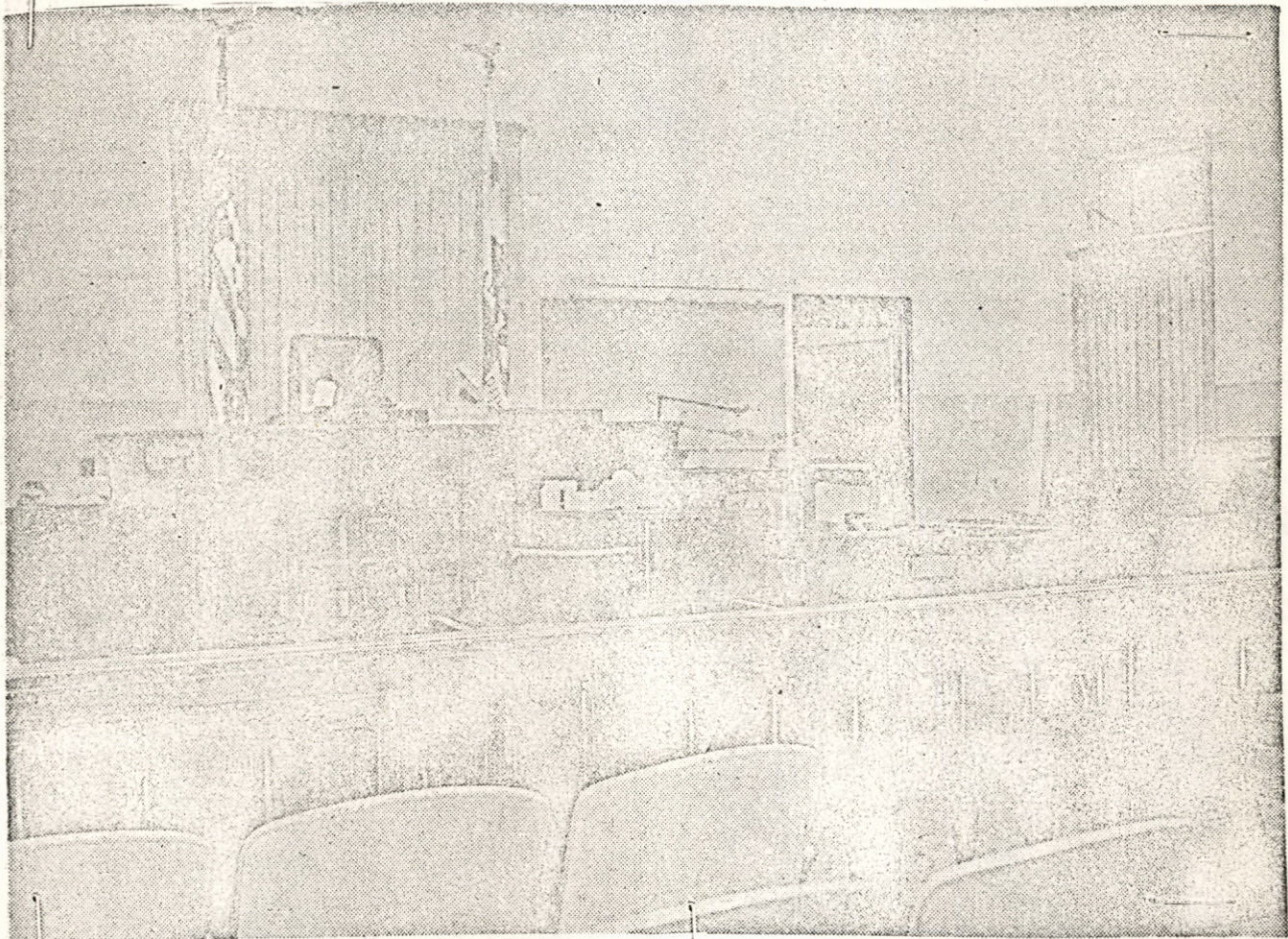
2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

WALK TO JUSTICE for Sirhan B. Sirhan will be armor-plated, with extensive security installations now being placed. At the County Hall of Justice, windows in steel doors along the path the accused killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy must take have had sliding steel panels installed, which lock from the corridor side (photo at far left). Sirhan will enter the hallway (left) from the small door at the center, which leads to the cell blocks. Inch-thick steel shields have been placed over the ninth floor windows, with a scant 4-inch margin allowing light to enter. The accused will take a right turn at the end of the hall, descend to the courtroom level on steel-plated steps (below). The stairway leads to an anteroom of the courtroom (lower left), where the trial may take place. Security plans call for a transparent shield to be placed in the courtroom, separating onlookers from Sirhan, judge and court officials.

—Herald-Examiner Photos by Bob Schultze



Story May Unfold in This Courtroom



Mother In First Time Visit to Jailed Sirhan

Mrs. Mary Sirhan—mother of son, Adel, and Sirhan's defense attorney, Russell E. Parsons, seemed "happy to see him." A spokesman said Mrs. Sirhan seemed happy with everything that was being done to aid Sirhan. She expressed gratitude for strict security measures taken to protect him. The 55-year-old mother reportedly did not bring anything into his cell.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Lack of Evidence in Shooting Sirhan Kin Cited by Police

Pasadena police said Thursday they are hampered by lack of tangible evidence as they investigate the alleged attempt on the life of Saidallah Bishara Sirhan, brother of the man accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan, 35, told police he was shot twice from one of two cars which followed him as he drove north on the Pasadena Freeway early Wednesday.

Police said Thursday that finding the white Volkswagen bus, from which, Sirhan said, the two shot

were fired, was the first priority in their investigation. But they said they had no concrete clues.

Lt. Gerald Wright said the only tangible evidence—two .38-caliber slugs recovered from Sirhan's car—was of no value now. A ballistics test would be useless unless the gun which fired them could be found, he said.

Wright also said that police still have no doubts at this time that the incident occurred as Sirhan told

The Times reported Thursday that Sirhan's answers to certain key questions during a lie detector test administered Wednesday were considered unsatisfactory. Wright declined to comment.

After nearly nine hours of police investigation Wednesday, Sirhan was taken to the Sirhan family residence in Pasadena. The home is under heavy police guard.

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— Los Angeles, Calif.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Slugs Only Clue In Firing At Sirhan Kin

Pasadena police have only two fired bullets as clues to the mystery of the gunman who fired at the brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused as the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Saidallah B. Sirhan, now under a round-the-clock police watch, told officers seven white men in two cars pursued his car on the Pasadena Freeway early yesterday morning and fired two shots which narrowly missed him.

Saidallah told police the attack occurred at 4:30 a.m. while he was en route home to Pasadena from a futile attempt to

contact a lady writer for an underground newspaper in Los Angeles.

Lt. Jerry Wright of the Pasadena police said:

"We have no reason to doubt his story at this time."

Although not held in protective custody, Saidallah has left his home in Pasadena and is under constant surveillance by police.

Police said two bullets from a .38 caliber pistol were recovered from Saidallah's car. The 36-year-old unemployed mechanic said he leaned "way over" in the car after the first shot rang out. The second bullet was found on his jacket on the floor between the front and

back seats. The shots drilled two holes in the car's right windshield.

Saidallah said he could feel the impact of the bullets in his door. He sped ahead while the other two cars—a light green 1959 Chevrolet and an off-white, late-model Volkswagen bus—fell behind.

Saidallah said the pursuit began as he was driving alone through Chinatown. He said the drivers of the pursuing cars sounded their horns and changed lanes as they got onto the freeway.

Sirhan said he drove in the middle lane to let the cars pass, but they began to flank him. One of four persons in the bus pointed a pistol at him, he said.

After the firing, Saidallah said the other cars turned off the freeway and he drove to the police station to report the attack.

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Two Shots Fired at Sirhan's Brother in Auto, Police Report

Accused Assassin's Kin Tells Pasadena Officers Bullets Came From Car That Had Followed Him From Los Angeles

BY ERIC MALNIC

Times Staff Writer

Two shots were fired Wednesday into a car driven by Saidallah Bishara Sirhan, a brother of the man accused of killing Sen Robert F. Kennedy, police reported.

However, The Times learned that Sirhan underwent a persistent, lengthy police interrogation and his answers to certain key questions during a lie detector test were considered unsatisfactory.

Sirhan, 35, told officers the shots came from one of two cars that followed him from Los Angeles to Pasadena on the Pasadena Freeway shortly before dawn.

The first shot struck a coat on the back seat of Sirhan's car, Pasadena Police Lt. Gerald Wright said. Sirhan told investigators he ducked

and a second shot zipped past his head and buried itself in the door beside him.

"If he had been sitting upright, the projectile probably would have passed through his neck," a Pasadena policeman said.

Sirhan told officers the shooting took place about 100 yards from the end of the freeway. He said the cars turned in opposite directions on a cross street at that point, while he proceeded directly to the police station.

Lt. Wright said he had "no doubt at all" about the incident. "We're taking it for a fact right now," he said.

Brother Awaiting Trial

Sirhan's 24-year-old brother, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, is in County Jail awaiting trial on charges he shot Sen. Kennedy June 5 at the Ambassador.

Saidallah Sirhan is the second eldest of the five Sirhan brothers. He is single and unemployed and has been living in a Pasadena apartment away from the remainder of the Sirhan family.

Pasadena police urged Friday that he move into the family home in Pasadena, which is under heavy police guard.

Saidallah Sirhan told officers he had been in Chinatown early Wednesday in an unsuccessful attempt to contact a woman reporter from an underground newspaper.

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Noticed Cars Following Him

He said he was returning home on the Pasadena Freeway in the downtown Los Angeles area at about 4:30 a.m. when he first noticed two cars following him.

One car, a white Volkswagen bus, contained four men, he said. The other, a green 1959 Chevrolet, contained three men.

After following him for about six miles, he said, the two cars pulled beside him, the Volkswagen on the right, the Chevrolet on the left.

Without warning, a man in the bus—possibly the driver—pointed a



UNDER HEAVY GUARD — Saidallah Bishara Sirhan is squeezed between two detectives on leaving Pasadena police headquarters where he reported that shots were fired at him as he drove on the Freeway. Times photo by Larry Sharkey

pistol at him and fired one shot, Sirhan said.

The shot shattered the right wind wing of his car and buried itself in the coat on the back seat, he said.

Sirhan said he threw himself to the right, seconds before another shot crashed through the wind wing and struck the door beside him.

The 35-year-old Pasadena said the two cars left the freeway at Glenarm St., where the Pasadena Freeway becomes the Arroyo Parkway. The bus turned right on Glenarm, the Chevrolet left, he said.

Sirhan said he then drove on to the police headquarters, about a mile away.

Police said they recovered two bullets from the car, both .38-caliber. After checking the vehicle, they returned it to Sirhan's apartment home, where it was parked in a garage.

Officers then took Sirhan on a careful retracing of his route in an attempt

to gather further evidence.

Saidallah Sirhan entered the United States from his native Jordan in June, 1960, nearly three years after his mother and three of his brothers—including Sirhan Bishara Sirhan—had immigrated here.

He filed a petition for naturalization on Nov. 27, 1967—the only member of his family to apply—but his naturalization was postponed on June 7 of this year by a U.S. district court.

At one time he worked as a house painter, but in recent months he has been unemployed.

The five Sirhan brothers are Sharif, 39; Saidallah, who will be 36 Sunday; Adel, 29; Sirhan, 24, and Munir, 20.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan's Father Seeks Family Back for Safety

TAYIBEH, Israeli-occupied Jordan (UPI)—The father of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who is accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, said he wants to bring his wife and their four sons back from the United States because "they are unsafe there."

The father, Bashara Sirhan, said yesterday he will appeal to the U.S. Ambassador in Israel "to urge the government in Washington to do its utmost for my family's protection."

"Why are they hunting us now," he said referring to the

attempting shooting of his second son, Saidallah, in Pasarena, Wednesday. "What have we got to do with the incident?"

"I also feel unsafe," Sirhan said. "Nobody knows what kind of person attempted to kill my other son."

He said he sought an interview after Wednesday's incident nor at nearby Ramallah but Sirhan also said he has was refused.

with the Israeli Military government changed his mind about his planned trip to the United States because of lack of funds.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ACLU to Probe Sirhan Brother's Citizenship Snarl

By J. ROBERT SMITH
Staff Writer

The American Civil Liberties Union said Friday it would look into the withholding of United States citizenship from Saidallah Bishara Sirhan, 36, of Pasadena, and "will take such action as may be appropriate."

Commenting on an article in Wednesday's Independent and Star-News, A. L. Wirin, ACLU chief defense attorney for Southern California, said the ACLU was "concerned with the denial of rights to all persons and this includes, of course, Saidallah."

Saidallah is the brother of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, of Pasadena, who is charged with the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Saidallah has alleged that he was shot at by unknown persons in two cars on the Pasadena Freeway early Wednesday morning.

Saidallah was scheduled to report to a Los Angeles naturalization court for swearing in June 7, but following the assassination June 5 he was told not to appear. According to him he has heard from no one since.

Wirin also commented, "The denial of citizenship solely because a member of one's family is charged with an offense is patently the clearest violation of elemental right."

"It is the application of the doctrine of 'guilt by association' in its ugliest form."

Wirin said, however, that "the case is in the hands of his attorney, David Marcus."

The ACLU had made certain that Sirhan Sirhan's constitutional rights were protected when he was arrested by seeing

that he had obtained a qualified lawyer of his choice to defend him.

That having been accomplished, the ACLU announced that it was leaving the conduct of the case up to the selected attorney, who was Russell E. Parsons, and withdrawing from having anything to do with it.

Sirhan wanted the ACLU to defend him, but Wirin had stated that it was not the function of the organization to defend such cases, that it was only interested in the constitutional aspects of cases.

Efforts to determine whether the action of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service was constitutional, and whether there were any precedents in withholding citizenship from Saidallah, drew a "no comment" reply from the Department of Justice in Washington Friday.

This newspaper, through its Washington bureau, tried to find out his status and the legality of the service's action.

The Washington headquarters of the service referred all inquiries back to the Los Angeles office with the information that "an investigation is still pending."

Marcus, in an interview, said that "immigration authorities told me they had to investigate the whole situation surrounding the incident, meaning the assassination."

He commented, however, that all investigation had already been completed prior to June 5 and Sirhan had received his notice to appear to be sworn in, June 7.

Richard Williams, deputy director of the service in Los Angeles, when asked whether the real reason why Sirhan was not sworn in as a citizen is because of the assassination, replied, "I don't say a word."

Marcus said that he was going to do something about the matter Friday, but after a wait of half a day, at the close of business when questioned as to what action he had taken, he answered, "I can't do anything today."



A. L. WIRIN
... ACLU attorney

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Independent Star-News
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Brother Citizenship Snarled

By J. ROBERT SMITH

Staff Writer

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Shortly after Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, of Pasadena, was identified as the suspect in the Robert F. Kennedy assassination, the process by which his brother Saidallah Bishara Sirhan, 36, also of Pasadena, hoped to become a United States citizen came to at least a temporary halt.

Saidallah Sirhan said he wanted his citizenship to advance himself in the United States in whose Constitution and principles he said he believes.

A hearing on his petition for naturalization which had been set for June 7, was called off on June 5, the day of the assassination. He was notified that it

would be rescheduled but has received no notice of a new hearing date, despite his own efforts and those of his attorney to gain him his citizenship.

"I feel that I should not be punished for the alleged acts of my brother by being deprived of my citizenship," Sirhan stated.

In an exclusive interview with this newspaper, Sirhan expressed admiration for the late Sen. Kennedy, whom he said he liked to listen to on television because it helped him improve his English.

"I was a great admirer of Sen. Kennedy for most of the time when he appeared on television. I would listen to his speeches. I was proud of his vocabulary, and would have a dic-

tionary with me to better understand what he was talking about," he stated.

Sirhan related, "I have had to pick up my English from television, from the American people, and from the dictionary, because I have had very little schooling in English."

He said that he extended his sympathy to the Kennedy family and the people of the United States for this tragedy.

"In expressing my sympathy,

I am also voicing the feeling of my entire family, both here in the United States, and abroad,"

Sirhan said.

He said that since the incident, "I cannot think, I cannot meditate. My mind is distracted, all shuffled up."

Sirhan said that he filed for his citizenship on Nov. 27, 1967, in the United States District Court of Los Angeles. His filing number was 293289.

He related that on May 29, he received a notice from the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

It notified him to appear for a hearing on his petition for naturalization before a judge of the naturalization court on June 7 in the Post Office and Court House Building, 312 N. Spring St., Los Angeles.

"Please report promptly at 8:30 a.m. Your witnesses need NOT come with you. If the judge finds you qualified for naturalization, you will be sworn in as a citizen," the notice advised, adding:

"If you cannot come to this hearing, return this notice immediately and state why you cannot appear. In such case, you will be sent another notice of hearing at a later date."

Sirhan told this newspaper that about 6:30 p.m., June 5, the day of the tragedy, two men, who identified themselves as an FBI agent and as a Mr. Lindsay from Immigration and Naturalization came to his home and informed him not to appear on June 7 for the hearing. They told him he would be notified later when to appear.

Sirhan said he consulted his attorney, David Marcus, who was handling his naturalization case.

Conference Held

"Attorney Marcus and I went to the immigration office on June 24 and he conferred with someone in there. When he came out, I asked him whether

he still represents me in my immigration and naturalization case, and what is he going to do now?"

Then he said he asked Marcus, "Are you going to write the congressman?" and Marcus replied, "I will see what I can do."

Commenting on the situation, Sirhan said, "I want my citizenship because I feel that I am loyal to the United States. I came to this country to better my conditions in life.

"To obtain my citizenship also helps my getting employment both in private industry and government. Without citizenship, I am unable to advance myself in the United States."

He added:

"Philosophically, I believe in the Constitution of the United States and for all which it stands, otherwise I would never have applied for citizenship.

"I took a course in citizenship at Pasadena City College, and bought some books of my own on United States history.

"When the two men came to my home, I was reading books to prepare myself for the final hearing. I was then reading the 'Oath of Allegiance.' The entire night before the tragedy I was reviewing the history of the United States."

Produces Draft Card

Asked whether he had registered for military service, Sirhan produced a draft card No. 4 90-32-631, with a 5-A classification, issued July 15, 1965 by Local Board No. 90, at 553 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena.

In a telephone conversation with Richard Williams, an official of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Los Angeles, when asked about the status of Sirhan in regards to citizenship, he replied, "I have no comment whatsoever. The court has requested that we remain silent."

He did say, however, "All information has been given to the Los Angeles Police Department for their investigation, so I am

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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FBI - LOS ANGELES

not saying a word," Williams said that George Rosenberg, director of the service, "is away," and was not available for comment.

Asked whether he had seen his brother, Sirhan said that he had not been consulted by attorney Russell E. Parsons or any lawyer representing his brother.

Haven't Seen Him

"I have not seen Sirhan. The last time I saw him was about a

month before the incident. They are not objecting to me seeing him, but I don't know if the kid wants to see me or not," he stated.

He remarked that he is independent of the family, and does not live with them.

He said he had no police protection and needed none, "because I have faith in the American people being fair and just."

Sirhan praised the Pasadena Police Department.

"I am quite grateful to the Pasadena Police Department, especially Lt. Jerry Wright, for the protection they are giving the rest of my family.

"I have found the officers to be good and kind people, and I appreciate their concern. That also holds good for the FBI."

Sirhan said that he has been in the United States eight years, and has spent all of that time in Pasadena. "I am an apprentice operator of the Swiss automatic screw machine, and unemployed at present," he told this newspaper.

Security Weighted

The presiding judge of Los Angeles County Superior Court said Tuesday that any substantial spending on security for the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan may be premature.

Judge Donald R. Wright said that the county plans to spend up to \$20,000 for an armored prisoners' dock for use when Sirhan is tried on a charge he murdered Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

In a letter to Chairman Frank G. Bonelli of the County Board of Supervisors, Wright wrote, "The judge who is assigned to hear this matter will determine what protective devices—if any—are necessary in the courtroom after hearing from both the people and the defendant."

He said there may be "many preliminary motions" requiring judicial rulings before there is a trial, and "the rulings . . . on such motions are generally subject to appellate review and may determine whether this matter will be tried in Los Angeles County or elsewhere."

He added: "It is my opinion that any substantial expenditure of county funds beyond those necessary for preliminary planning may be premature."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Shots Miss Sirhan's Brother, Strike Car

Pasadenan Chased by Two Autos Early Morning Attack Made,

By CARTER BARBER
Staff Writer

An attempt was made early today to kill Saidallah B. Sirhan of Pasadena, 36-year-old brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Two bullets were fired at the older Sirhan from one of a pair of cars which pursued him on the Pasadena Freeway as he was returning home from Los Angeles at 4:30 a.m.

Both bullets hit Sirhan's car. He told police he leaned away after the first shot was fired. The second bullet came to rest on his jacket, lying on the floor of his back seat.

Near Miss

"Had the driver (Sirhan) been sitting upright, the projectile probably would have passed through his neck," Pasadena police reported.

Sirhan said the shots were fired as he and the two pursuing cars — which began to flank him at the Orange Grove overpass — were nearing Glenarm Street.

Immediately after the fusillade, the car on Sirhan's left turned west on Glenarm, and the car to his right turned east. Sirhan, a Pasadena resident, proceeded straight on Arroyo Parkway to police headquarters.

Both bullets were recovered. Police said they were .38 caliber. Sirhan said they came

from a handgun, fired at him from the car on his right, in the outside lane of the freeway.

Returning Home

Sirhan told police he had been in Los Angeles Tuesday night attempting to contact a writer, described as a lady writer for the "Free Press." Unable to locate her in the 92nd or 93rd Street area of Los Angeles, he was returning to Pasadena, he said.

While driving north on Hill Street, through Chinatown, Sirhan noticed two cars following him, blowing their horns at each other and changing lanes.

Sensing that he was being followed Sirhan got into the middle lane on the freeway to let the cars pass. But one, which he described as a white or off-white Volkswagen bus, began to tailgate him.

The other car, described as a 1959 Chevrolet, light green or turquoise, hung back.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 - Star-News
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© Copyright, 1968, Pasadena Independent Star-News Staff Photo by Herb Shoebridge

BROTHER TALKS TO POLICE — Sharif Sirhan, behind unmarked police vehicle, talks this morning to officers investigating reported attempt on life of Saidallah Sirhan. Saidallah Sirhan later went with police over the Pasadena Freeway where two bullets were fired at him from a pursuing car near Glenarm Sireet. Saidallah and Sharif are brothers of Sirhan Sirhan, accused of the assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles in June.

Flank Sirhan

It was not until the vehicles were nearing the Orange Grove overpass in Pasadena that Sirhan's pursuers began to flank him, he said.

Sirhan said he saw the handgun being pointed at him from

the window of the VW bug on his right, but could not tell if it was held by the driver or a passenger in the front seat.

He said the driver was wearing a small mustache. There were two more men in the rear seat, who were wearing hats, he said.

He reported there were three men in the Chevrolet, one driving and two in the rear, also wearing hats.

All seven men were white, Sirhan said.

Home Under Guard

Pasadena police advised Sirhan to go to his mother's home, which is under guard. Lt. Gerald E. Wright, of the investigative division, said that both Pasadena and Los Angeles officers would meet with Sirhan later today, and retrace the route with him in efforts to obtain more information.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

At Police Department**Saidallah Sets
Off Scribe Rush****By DIRK WERKMAN**
Staff Writer

For about a minute and a half Wednesday afternoon the Pasadena Police Department was turned into an area resembling a race track.

Almost 50 men, many of them carrying cameras and microphones, stampeded along the second floor corridor of the department, down a flight of stairs, past the front counter, and out the door to a waiting yellow automobile.

The reluctant center of attraction of the brief but hectic scene was Saidallah B. Sirhan.

By 1 p.m. Wednesday some 40 newsmen were camped in the second floor lobby of the detective bureau waiting for Sirhan to be led out.

When he was, he was whisked along in a fast-moving, shoving procession that was strikingly similar to the mob-like press coverage given to Sen. Robert Kennedy during his wild, 2½-month cross-country presidential campaign.

Dressed in a white shirt with the collar open and slacks, Sirhan, flanked by police officers, was almost jerked from his feet by the crush of newsmen. At one point a television sound cord became entangled around his leg.

Most of the newsmen who waited for Saidallah didn't know he was in the juvenile bureau down the hall, and expected him to come from another set of offices where, in fact, his brother, Sharif Sirhan, was talking with officers.

At one point, about 30 minutes before Saidallah was taken from the building, a newsman

apparently spotted his brother and yelled "there he is."

Newsmen, with television cameramen elbowing their way to the front, crowded along a rail in the detective bureau in anticipation of the moving of the 36-year-old Saidallah—but to no avail.

A few minutes later Lt. Gerald Wright, head of the detective bureau, announced that Saidallah would be taken from the juvenile department, down a flight of rear steps, and out the front door.

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—Staff Photo by Herb Shoebridge

CROWD—Reporters and photographers crowd around car holding Saidallah B. Sirhan and police detectives. They

jumped in the car after a hectic race with newsmen down from the second floor of the Pasadena Police Department.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A QUESTION OF CASH**Minister Tells Sirhan Plan to Buy His Horse**

By JAMES D. WHITE

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Southern California evangelist says he almost sold a horse to the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and now is hiding out in fear of his life.

The Los Angeles police, who he says have his story, decline comment.

The Orange County Baptist minister, who does not want his name used and who will be called Jones, was interviewed at a hideout less than 100 miles from San Francisco.

Present were two of his long-time friends, Oakland private detective Ben Hardister and San Francisco criminal attorney George T. Davis. Both say they advised Jones to stay out of sight and are seeking protection for him and his family. He says he has had two threatening telephone calls.

Here is the gist of his long story:

He picked up two hitchhikers in Los Angeles on Monday, June 3, the day before the California Democratic primary which Kennedy won.

Jones says one of the youths

was Sirhan Beshara Sirhan, the Jordanian accused of killing Kennedy. The other was taller, but seemed to Jones to be the same nationality.

Since Jones is a horseman by avocation and buys and sells horses and Shetland ponies, they talked of horses.

Sirhan wanted to buy a pony to exercise race horses so he could get a job at a race track. Jones had one that suited, but Sirhan said he would not have the price, \$300, until late that night.

Sirhan asked to be let off near the Ambassador Hotel "to see a friend in the kitchen." That night, Sirhan produced a \$100 bill, but said he wouldn't have the rest until 8 a.m. Tuesday.

At that time, Sirhan did not show up. Instead there was an older man who looked like the same nationality and said, "Joe couldn't make it." He said Sirhan really wanted the horse and could pay for it Tuesday night at 11 p.m. if Jones would deliver it at the same spot near the Ambassador Hotel where Jones had let him out.

The Ambassador is where Kennedy was shot.

Jones said he was preaching out of town and couldn't make it. He gave the older man, whom he described as about 35 and expensively dressed, his business card with his unlisted telephone number.

On Wednesday, Jones did not hear that Kennedy had been shot until he was having lunch with friends. A picture of the still-unidentified suspect was flashed on a television show, and Jones said he recognized the youth who had wanted to buy the horse.

The next day, Thursday, he got the first threatening telephone call, he said. An unaccented voice he could not recall having heard before told him:

"Keep your mouth shut about this horse deal if you know what's good for you."

Three days later the voice in another call reminded him he had been warned once before and repeated the profane threat to keep his mouth shut. He told police about the calls, and picked Sirhan's picture out of 30 they showed him.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Brother Under Heavy Guard



—Photos by AP Wirephoto, Herb Shoebridge and Ed Norgard

BROTHER QUIZZED ABOUT SHOOTING—Saidallah B. Sirhan, whose brother, Sirhan B. Sirhan is accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, told police he was fired upon in his car, two bullets piercing his right wind wing (left). Pasadena Police Detective Ben Heatherington (center photo, left) and a Los Angeles Police detective escort Sirhan out of the Pasadena Police Department after questioning and he grimaces (right) as he encounters glare of TV lights.

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Police Investigate Freeway Shooting

By CARTER BARBER
Staff Writer

Saidallah B. Sirhan today is under around-the-clock police protection after Wednesday's reported attempt on the life of the 36-year-old brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The older Sirhan complied with police advice to move to the already-guarded Pasadena home on Howard Street of his mother, Mary, and another brother, Abel.

The precautions followed Saidallah Sirhan's report early Wednesday morning that two shots were fired at him as he drove the Pasadena Freeway to the residence he maintained independently here.

Two cars trailed him along the freeway from its Hill Street entrance in Los Angeles, he said. As they neared the Orange Grove overpass in Pasadena, the two cars flanked him.

At Glenarm Street, Sirhan said, two bullets were fired from the car on his right — described as a white or offwhite Volkswagen bus.

Both hit Sirhan's car. He said he ducked away after the first shot. The second bullet came to rest on his jacket, in the back seat of his car.

Almost Hit

"Had the driver (Sirhan) been sitting upright, the projectile would probably have passed through his neck," Pasadena police reported.

The VW turned east on Glenarm immediately after the shooting, Sirhan said. The car flanking him to the left sped west on Glenarm. It was described as a 1959 Chevrolet, light green or turquoise.

Sirhan continued north on Arroyo Parkway to the Pasadena police station where he reported the attack at approximately 4:45 a.m.

After his statement and pictures of the bullet damage to

his car were taken, Sirhan was accompanied to his home by officers. His brother, Sharif, joined him there.

Later in the morning, after Los Angeles police investigators joined with Pasadena officers, Saidallah was taken along the Pasadena Freeway route he had travelled, to develop more details of his experience. Midday, he continued answering official question in Pasadena police headquarters.

Reported Cooperative

"He's perfectly cooperative," Lt. Gerald E. Wright of the investigative division commented, "just like the entire family."

With regard to Saidallah's previously stated desire to live independently of his mother and brother, Adel, Wright said Saidallah has "not particularly" changed his mind.

"But," the lieutenant added, "he has had the need for a guard driven home."

The 24-hour protection will not be augmented from the one officer now on duty at Mrs. Sirhan's home, Wright said. "We feel we can continue the security as we have," he remarked.

During Questioning

During the questioning of Sirhan, principally by Wright, Sgt. Ben C. Hetherington of the Pasadena homicide squad and two Los Angeles detectives, these elements of Sirhan's initial report were thoroughly discussed:

—The two cars first got on his

track in Chinatown shortly after 4 a.m. Wednesday. They honked horns at each other and changed lanes, as if following a pattern of pursuit.

—There were seven white men involved—four in the VW from which the shots were fired, and three in the Chevrolet.

—The shots, from a .38-caliber weapon, were fired either by the mustachioed driver of the VW or by his front seat passenger.

—The episode climaxed a trip which Sirhan said he had made earlier that evening and morning to the 92nd or 93rd Street area of Los Angeles to contact a writer, described as female, for the "Free Press."

Preliminary investigation disclosed Wednesday that the publication has no female reporters, but that it does have "lady writers" as freelancers.

Lt. Wright said that police were attempting to trace the two cars, described by Sirhan, and running ballistics tests on the recovered bullets. Efforts are to continue today.

Meanwhile, more than two score news and cameramen thronged the Pasadena police station. They failed to notice an impromptu visit which Sharif paid his brother, Saidallah.

Speculation was rife whether Saidallah was fired upon because he was Sirhan Sirhan's brother, or because he was driving erratically, or because it was an isolated incident.

At one point, Lt. Wright said, "I can't connect this with the Kennedy assassination at all. As far as we can tell it's completely isolated from Kennedy."

The police protection for Saidallah was provided nevertheless.

The Wednesday shooting was the second act of violence against him reported by Saidallah since the June 5 Kennedy slaying.

Sirhan said at that time that two men claiming to be magazine photographers visited his home, stole a picture and valuable papers—and beat him up before leaving.

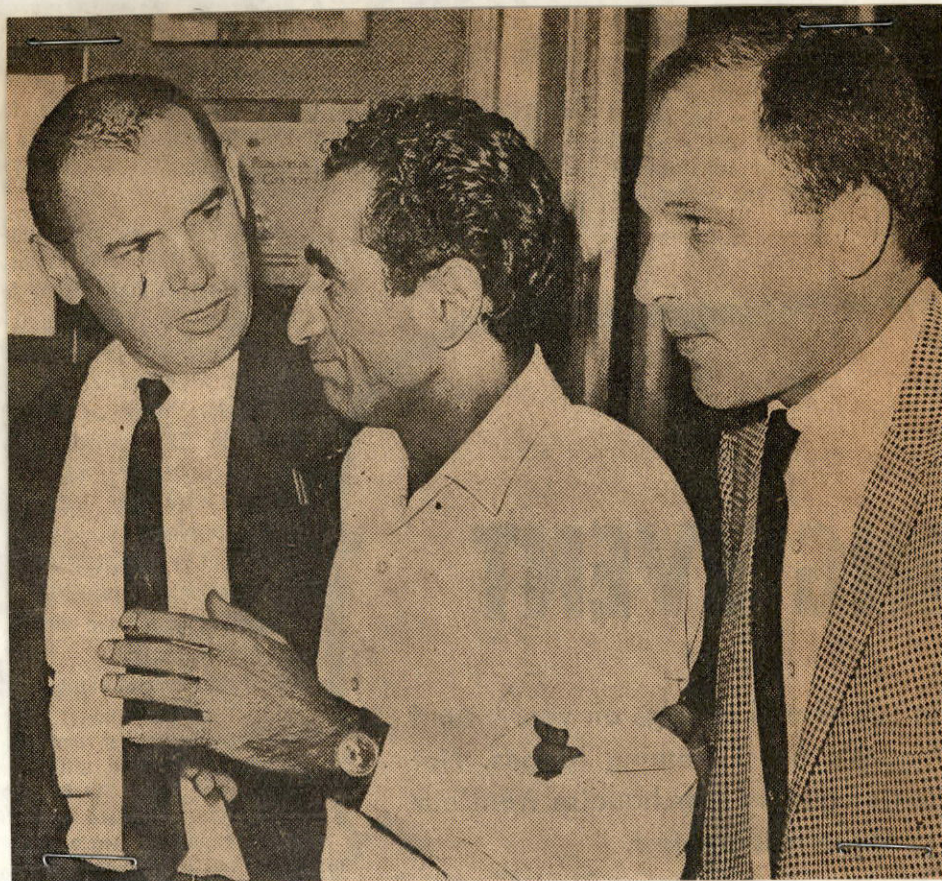
One of the valuable papers was a document bearing on his efforts to become a United States citizen.

A copyrighted story in the Independent Star-News related how federal agents called upon Saidallah a few hours after the assassination and told him his immigration hearing, scheduled for June 7, was postponed indefinitely.

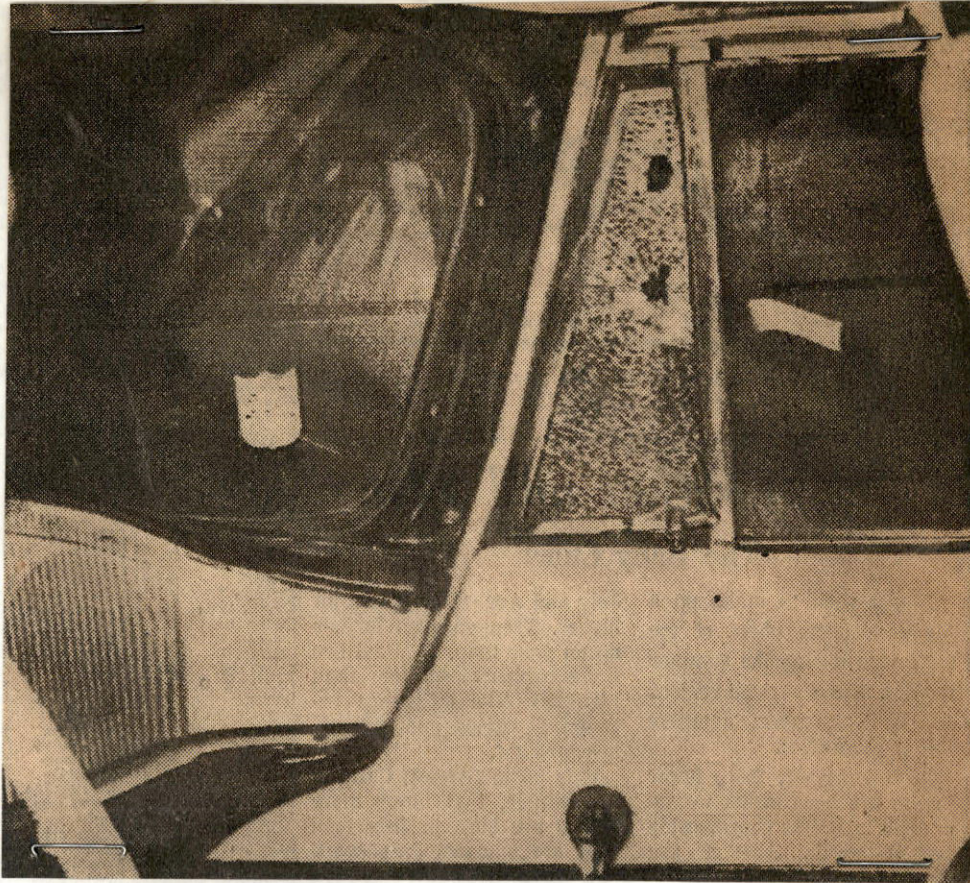
Saidallah, a Jordanian, said he asked the agents to put it in writing, which they did—on the stolen document.

David Marcus, lawyer who is handling Saidallah's citizenship effort, remarked Wednesday that the Immigration and Naturalization Service "refuses to take any action whatsoever until the entire matter (involving Sirhan Sirhan) is cleared up."

Marcus also disclosed that he has been representing Munir Sirhan, still another brother, in a federal deportation proceeding.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The gun store owner who reported-
ly sold ammunition to the man
charged with assassinating Robert
F. Kennedy is circulating petitions
against proposed gun control legisla-
tion. Ben Herrick, who is displaying
the petitions at his store, 8972 Hunt-
ington Drive, San Gabriel, in coopera-
tion with the Committee for the
Preservation of Firearms Owner-
ship, said he collected 500 signatures
last week. "We have done what we
can to get the public aroused in
order to try to stop this hysterical
legislation against gun ownership,"
he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-2 LA Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

PAUL COATES

'Clemency for Sirhan' or Wheels Within Wheels?

As could have been expected, the attempt to transform Sirhan Sirhan into a martyr and not just an accused, common criminal has already started.

The other day, I got some material from the Organizing Committee for Clemency for Sirhan. The headquarters are in New York's Greenwich Village. The letterhead had the names of John M. Lawrence, executive secretary, and Al Matthews, associate counsel, from Van Nuys.

★

There was a picture of Sirhan on the first page and the questions: "Who seeks the blood of this boy? Is it you? Is it the state of California? Is it the Kennedy family? Or is it the vested political Establishment operating through the office of the District Attorney of Los Angeles County?"

The text goes on to say: "If death is to be the penalty of Sirhan's misguided political act, then what penalty shall world justice and Arab military might deal out for the genocidal massacres and exiling of Palestinian Arabs from their native land . . . The trail of murder and killing will end where a merciful understanding and humane forms of retribution are employed. Support the just fight for clemency for Sirhan Sirhan."

At first glance, it seems a piece of paper opposed to the death penalty, especially since Al Matthews has been identified with the fight for abolishment of capital punishment.

I telephoned Matthews to ask him

why he'd lent his name to this organization and who had requested his assistance?

"A guy named Lawrence from New York called me up about 25 times and I agreed because, hell, anything I could do to prevent Sirhan's death, I would do.

"I'm opposed to the death of Sirhan and I told Lawrence if these guys are too, that's my bag."

But apparently, these "guys" have another bag. In a letter to the Washington Post, Lawrence lambasted the editor and a feature writer for "a cowardly, one-sided way they seek, by innuendo, to impute mental disease to Sirhan . . . He (Sirhan) is a victim of a ruthlessness ardently expressed by Robert Kennedy who eulogized toughness and prowess in the arts of violence, and a build-up of more force to perfect violent death upon Arabs . . .

★

"Sirhan Sirhan is now a victim of the Washington Post's endeavor to destroy that one thing which distinguishes as a human being and not a mere animal, which is his capacity for willfulness or rationality . . . If you, at the Post, would kill Mr. Sirhan, the human being, do it as the brave man with a sword, and not as a coward with a kiss." (Signed) John F. Lawrence."

Evidently, this particular Lawrence of Arabia—or rather of Greenwich Village—would have Sirhan be the man over whose deaths Arabs around the world would rally. And a plea of insanity would ruin these plans.

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Benjamin

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

\$210,629---And Rising

Taxpayers' Tab On Sirhan Soars

By REED MCCLURE
Evening Outlook Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, has cost Los Angeles County taxpayers \$210,629 to date, it was disclosed today.

The cost estimate was computed by Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller Mark H.

Bloodgood and made public by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

"And the trial has not even begun, nor has the jury been selected," Hahn commented.

The total includes "extraordinary costs," regular costs and general overhead assumed by the county since the fatal shooting during the senator's primary election victory celebration in the Ambassador Hotel last month.

The county has been taking unusual safety precautions to protect Sirhan and \$52,676 of the total was charged to the county's Mechanical Department. The department has been making building alterations to accommodate the suspect.

Air Conditioning

Hahn said some of the expenses charged to the department included installation of a five-ton air conditioning unit on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice and building a kitchen.

The supervisor reported that the Sirhan case prompted the installation, but county officials had felt for some time that the equipment was needed for future maximum security trials.

The Board of Supervisors has authorized special security precautions for Sirhan in por-

tions of the Hall of Justice under the jurisdiction of Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess, but no courtroom work has been performed. Courtroom alterations must be authorized by the presiding judge of the Superior Court.

This work has been held up because the trial judge has not been named—and there is a possibility that Sirhan might receive a change of venue and be tried outside Los Angeles County.

Trial Due Next Week

The Jordanian immigrant is scheduled to appear in court July 19 in the Hall of Justice in Department 100.

Bloodgood said "extraordinary costs" include "those additional costs which were incurred only because of the Sirhan case."

"Extraordinary costs" total \$104,433 and include \$47,718 for the Sheriff's Department and \$47,946 for the Mechanical Department.

Regular departmental costs for operations charged to the Sirhan case total \$79,740, including \$51,966 for the sheriff and \$23,387 for the district attorney.

General overhead, including such things as telephone bills and general paper work, total \$26,456, Bloodgood reported.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Will Enter Plea in Mini-Fortress 'Court'

Friday Appearance Slated in Room With Armor-Plated Walls

BY JERRY COHEN
Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan will make his fourth courtroom appearance next Friday in a setting probably without equal in this nation's judicial history.

He will enter his plea to an indictment charging him with the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in a converted "bullpen" which once housed women prisoners on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice.

By armor-plating the sides, workmen have turned the holding tank—which is about the size of a large room—into a mini-fortress.

The conventional cell in which Sirhan is imprisoned, guarded around the clock by two deputies, stands inside the tank.

Sirhan will have only to step outside the cell Friday to appear in "court."

Portable Seats for Newsmen

A portable judge's bench, constructed by the County Mechanical Department, has been set up in the armored bullpen.

Portable seats will be placed in the courtroom area to accommodate the limited number of newsmen who will be allowed to be present for the pleading.

The bullpen occupies part of an isolated corridor on the 13th floor.

The surroundings and atmosphere, thus, will be even more unusual Friday than those which characterized Sirhan's three previous courtroom appearances.

After his indictment, he was arraigned in an austere chapel of the County Central Jail, where he was held prior to his secret transfer last Sunday to the Hall of Justice.

Won Delay in Pleading

He also won a delay in his pleading in the same chapel three weeks ago.

The first legal proceeding, held only a few hours after his arrest early June 5, came in the Municipal Court of Judge Joan Dempsey Klein.

It was his arraignment, on the original booking charge—and was held in total secrecy and an hour and a half before the normal opening of the court day.

Because of limited seating in the armored bullpen, Superior Judge Richard Schauer and Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess announced, "cooperative pool coverage arranged by the

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Times
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media itself will be mandatory" next Friday.

The proceeding will begin at 9 a.m.

It is not known whether future pre-trial developments in the case will be staged in the same maximum security arena.

However, it still is presumed that the trial itself will be held in a conventional courtroom on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice.

The Board of Supervisors has authorized expenditures to install protective devices in whatever courtroom might be selected.

Meanwhile, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn disclosed he had obtained an accounting from County Auditor Mark Bloodgood on what has been spent thus far in connection with the Sirhan case.

Public Entitled to Know

He said he had asked for the accounting in the belief that the public "is entitled to know the full costs."

Bloodgood's figures disclosed that through July 7 the total cost was \$210,629. The figures were broken down by department—medical examiner, district attorney, mechanical, public defender, sheriff and courts.

However, the total cost is deceptive.

One reason is that it is broken down in "extraordinary costs," "regular costs" and "general county overhead," and a sizable portion of the two latter categories would occur for any prisoner under normal conditions. These would range from salaries for deputies, to contribution to the county employees' retirement system and workmen's compensation.

How It Works Out

Even some of the "extraordinary costs" are misleading, if the auditor's figures are interpreted to mean expense for the Sirhan case alone.

For instance, the figures show an "extraordinary" expenditure of \$47,964 by the mechanical department.

Of that sum, \$20,000 may never be spent at all and about \$11,000 probably would have been spent on providing a 13th floor kitchen in the Hall of Justice and an air-conditioning unit on that floor.

Both the kitchen and the air-conditioning unit, which will cool the area where Sirhan is held, had been budgeted previously by the sheriff's office.

As for the \$20,000, that sum represents the estimated cost of protective devices for the courtroom in which the trial will be held.

But the possibility of a change of venue would rule such an expenditure out. In addition, Presiding Superior Judge Donald R. Wright has said it will be up to the trial judge to determine what protective measures will be necessary.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan's Mother, Brother Visit Him in New Cell

Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused as the slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, has been visited for the first time in his new jail cell by his mother and brother.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan and another son, Adel, yesterday were taken to the super-secure cell in the Hall of Justice by Sirhan's attorney, Russell E. Parsons. Mrs. Sirhan and Adel previously had visited Sirhan, 24, in his old cell at County Jail.

Sheriff's deputies, using a heavily-guarded convoy of three patrol cars, secretly transferred Sirhan to the Hall of Justice last Sunday night.

A preliminary hearing for the Jordanian native was scheduled to resume July 19. Parsons obtained a continuance of the hearing June 28 and a second psychiatrist was appointed to examine the defendant before he enters a plea.

Mrs. Sirhan and Adel were reported to be pleased at the new jail facility, which is a little roomier than Sirhan's old cell. A spokesman added that the family appreciated the security precautions taken to guard Sirhan.

Sirhan was described by the spokesman as looking quite concerned.

Authorities claim Sirhan fatally shot Kennedy last June 5 and wounded five other persons at the Ambassador Hotel.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Impregnable Court Ready for Sirhan, Pitchess Asserts

BY DIAL TORGERSON

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan will appear Friday in a court so well defended "someone would have to destroy the entire building to get him," Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess said Tuesday.

A sheriff's briefing room high in the 15-floor Hall of Justice in the Civic Center will be the scene of the Friday hearing, at which Sirhan is to enter a plea.

Panels of armor plate have been placed across windows of the 50-by-46-foot room on the 13th floor to assure the safety of the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Pitchess showed the facility to newsmen Tuesday in a preview of the Friday hearing and told of precautions taken for the session:

—Everyone present for the hearing, including more than 40 newsmen and about 30 spectators, will be searched before being allowed in the court.

No Loss of Security

—Sirhan, held in a 6-by-8-foot cell 50 feet away, will be taken down a corridor and into the court without having to leave the maximum security facilities of the 13th floor.

—The armor in front of the windows will protect the room in case "anyone tries to throw anything in the window," Pitchess said.

Pitchess said that the room was set up as a court—with a judge's bench and counsel tables—only for the plea hearing. He said it would be up to the judge appointed to hear the case where the trial itself will be held.

The sheriff said that security precautions and the redecorating of the room had been planned prior to the Sirhan case.

The room was once a visiting room for the women's quarters of the old County Jail. After women inmates were moved out in 1965 it was used as a storeroom and then refurbished as a squad room for briefing of sheriff's personnel assigned to the Hall of Justice.

Sirhan is in a five-cell block of units in which he is at present the only prisoner. A guard is with him in his cell at all times and another watches him from outside the bars. His food is provided from a separate kitchenette-type facility to protect him from being poisoned.

"He gets the same (menu) as the main line (the regular inmate population)," said Pitchess. "We don't want anyone attempting to poison the entire population to get him."

Most of the threats against Sirhan have been dismissed as the work of cranks, the sheriff said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Author: Dial Torgerson
Editor: Nick B. Williams
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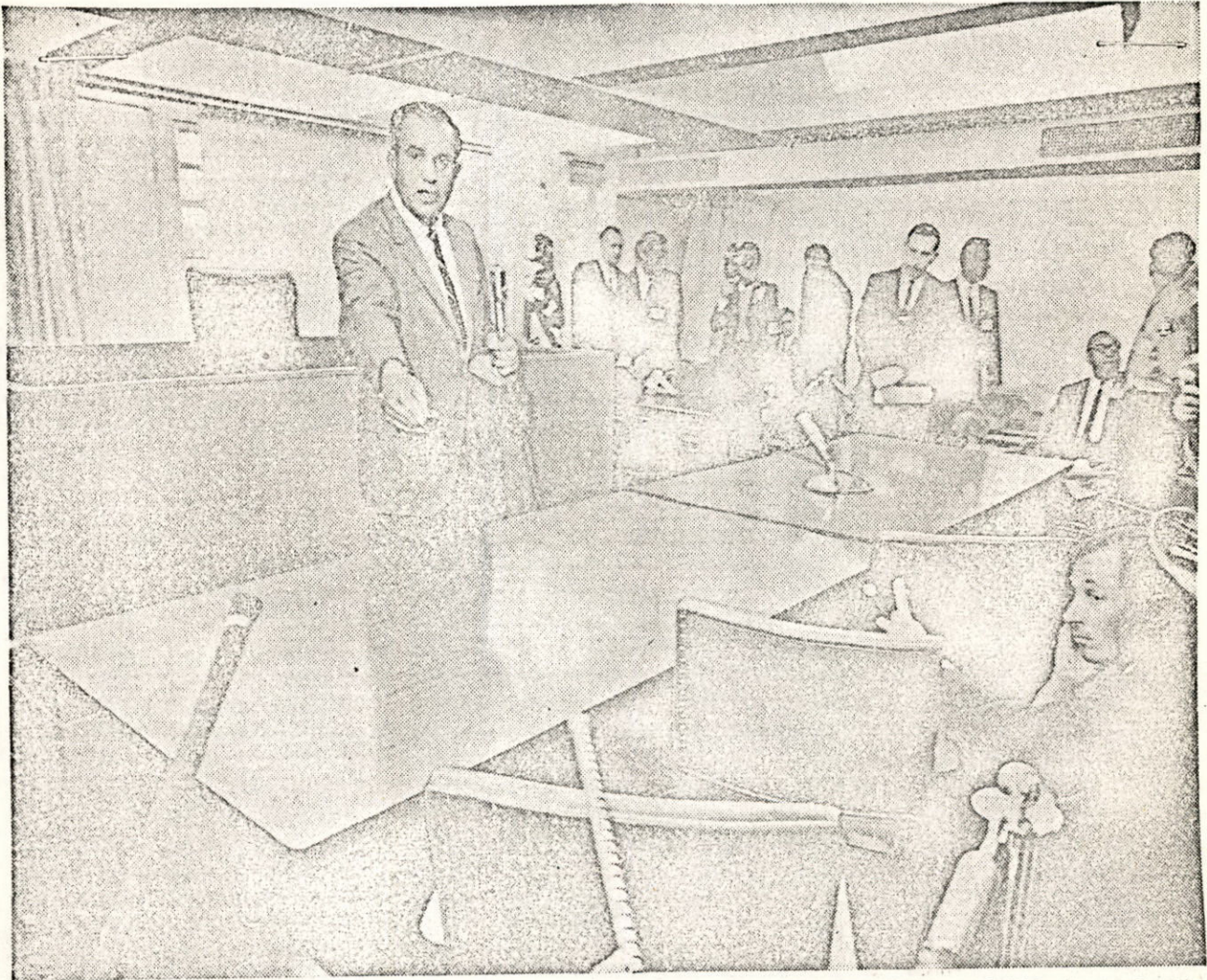
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1 JUL 17 1968
FBI — LOS ANGELES



HEARING ROOM FOR SIRHAN—Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess, showing newsmen the room in the Hall of Justice where Sirhan Bishara Sirhan will appear on

Friday, points to chairs at end of table that will be occupied by Sirhan and his lawyer. Behind Pitchess and judge's chair is armor plate covering window.

Times photo by John Malmin

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

LETTERS TO THE TIMES

Mayor Yorty Contends The Times 'Reconsidered' on News of Sirhan

In an editorial (March 25, 1967) "Dangerous Judicial 'Gag,'" Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Alfred Gitelson's order stating that "all persons involved in the prosecution of crime will face contempt proceedings if they give out anything but the barest essentials concerning a crime" caused The Times to declare that "if such a gag is allowed to stand, then it is but a step to imposing a gag on newspapers in their coverage of crime . . . It has been rightly said that both public order and the protection of the accused are served by the bright light of truth . . . It must be reemphasized that inherent in censorship of news at the source is the danger of secret arrest and ultimately secret trial."

After the Second District Court of Appeal struck down Judge Gitelson's order The Times' editorial (August 22, 1967) noted:

"Both public order and the protection of the rights of the accused are served by the bright light of truth. It is axiomatic that if you black out news you risk blacking out justice as well."

"Under the stress of the time some

unfortunate and ill-timed statements were made about the (Sirhan) case," said The Times in its June 30 editorial. The Times, following its statements about me in its June 7 editorial, had obviously had the opportunity, in the more quiet, rational days following the emotionalism of the June 5 tragedy, to reconsider its editorial commitments and set its own record straight.

SAM YORTY
Mayor, Los Angeles

The "unfortunate" statements cited in the June 30 editorial were those made by Mayor Yorty which involved revelation of possible evidence in the case. We did not otherwise criticize his speaking out. The consistent editorial position of The Times on the issue of Free Press and Fair Trial needs no clarification.—Ed.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-4 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ACLU Praises Coverage

The Sirhan Sirhan matter having ended, as far as the American Civil Liberties Union is concerned, we would like both to thank and praise the members of the working press for their cooperation.

We are especially grateful for the careful and repeated delineation of the ACLU's participation in the Sirhan case, first at the request of Sirhan himself and the chief public defender, and later at the request of Superior Court Judge Arthur Alarcon.

Your copy made it clear to most people the limited nature of our involvement, to act as an independent guardian of Sirhan's constitutional rights, and to assure a fair trial until such time as his private counsel could assume that burden.

Finally, I should mention what seems to me to be the extraordinary care reporters and editors took in reporting this case. Despite the court order barring comment by public officials, newsmen apparently found much to write about—if one may judge from the long backgrounders which appeared in print and on television. Withal, the coverage was restrained, the press judiciously balancing the public's very real need to know with Sirhan's right to an unprejudiced jury.

ED CRAY
American Civil Liberties
Union of Southern California

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A Look at Sirhan Courtroom

Sirhan B. Sirhan, 25, accused as the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, will make another court appearance Friday in the smallest courtroom in Los Angeles County—but the most unusual.

The miniaturized courtroom was previewed yesterday to the press and others on the 13th floor of the County Jail in the Hall of Justice.

It was built especially for the Sirhan proceedings, with his safety the prime concern. The area is part of the old women's quarters in County Jail, now adapted to court purposes.

On entering, it has the general appearance of a courtroom, but is only 46 by 50 feet. The

ceiling is low, lit by fluorescent lighting. The floor is brown asphalt tile, and the walls and ceiling are freshly painted in off white.

The judge's bench is raised two steps off the floor. There is no witness box. Two mahogany tables for lawyers and the defendant are before the bench. Five padded chairs line the tables.

There are 80 collapsible chairs for spectators, and behind a rope divider, 23 more for court officials and guards. The room is air conditioned, and microphones are hooked to an amplifying system on the judge's bench and counsel table.

Behind the judge are floor to

ceiling drapes, in beige burlap. They stand out strangely from the wall. Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess, responsible for the safety and welfare of Sirhan, pulls the drapes and reveals three quarter-inch steel plates, each six feet wide and 7½ feet in height.

"This is an outside room with windows, looking down on the street," he explains. "The plates are for protection, so nothing can be thrown in, like explosives, or a bomb."

Sirhan technically is to appear Friday to enter a plea to a charge of murdering Senator Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel last June 5. Whether he asks a further delay for further psychiatric studies, or other legal reasons, will not be known until then.

The slight, former racehorse exercise boy is held under intensive guard in a cell only about 50 feet from the courtroom. One deputy sits with him in his cell, others watch them from outside.

Sheriff Pitchess says Sirhan has been a quiet prisoner, reading considerably, and sometimes trying to engage his guards in conversation. They respond briefly, but do not converse.

He buys newspapers and paperback books from the jail cart, but has made no unusual demands, and talks at length only with his attorney, Russell E. Parsons.

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SHERIFF PETER PITCHESS EXPLAINS SIRHAN TRIAL RULES IN FORTIFIED COURTROOM AT HALL OF JUSTICE
Between a window and the judge's bench is steel plate which would foil any shooting or bomb-throwing attempt into special trial room

—Associated Press Photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Sirhan Trial

Most of us have been disappointed one time or another in the past few years because in our opinion, the courts have been leaning over backward to make sure that all criminals secure their rights as promised by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. In cases where circumstantial evidence is the only evidence available, they, no doubt, have been right.

Now it is our opinion that the legal profession has the opportunity to resell the American public on the fairness and efficiency of our judicial system.

We, the American people, are not willing to spend millions of dollars in making the trial of Sirhan Sirhan a theatrical production. We feel that about three witnesses for the prosecution should be sufficient to prove him either guilty or not guilty. It would appear to the average citizen that it is a question as to sanity or insanity. If sane, then the penalty should be imposed.

What we should not tolerate is trials and retrials as a result of some technicality in our court system. We are of the opinion that where there were eye witnesses to this atrocious crime that the trial should be completed and over with in two days.

JOHN W. MAYNARD
Los Angeles

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

COST OF ASSASSINATION TRIAL DISCUSSED**Police to Quiz 4,000 on Sirhan,
Yorty Says****BY ERWIN BAKER**

Times Staff Writer

Police expect to conduct about 4,000 interviews in an effort to "run down every possible lead" in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Mayor Sam Yorty disclosed Wednesday.

Yorty made the disclosure at his weekly news conference in commenting on the cost involved in the upcoming trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

The 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant is scheduled to enter his plea to a murder indictment Friday.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn announced last week that County Auditor Mark Bloodgood had budgeted \$210,629 through July 7 in connection with the case.

Some officials, however, consider the figure deceptively high because of costs which would normally be attributed to any prisoner. Yorty noted that the county figure did not include police investigation.

The city outlay has not yet been tabulated, but "it will be a very large figure," the mayor said, adding that the money will come from the taxpayers.

In answer to a question, Yorty said he was "satisfied" that Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess would maintain "adequate" security during Sirhan's court appearances.

On other subjects, the mayor chided Councilman Ernani Bernardi for his opposition to an annual city birthday fiesta.

And he said he hasn't made up his mind on the renewal of a controversial contract for golf professional Richard Boggs, the driving range concessionaire at Sepulveda Basin Golf Course in the San Fernando Valley.

Bernardi blasted the birthday celebrations Monday as "a lot of malarkey and a waste of money."

He suggested that they be held periodically or every decade.

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Yorty, said he believes that when Bernardi "studies the situation he will realize that a great city like Los Angeles should commemorate its birthday annually."

He admitted, however, that the city "tried too much" last year when the weeklong fete cost \$159,426.

This year, Yorty said, the fiesta has been "scaled down considerably," but he was unable to pinpoint the cost.

He said he thought Bernardi would support it "when he understands it better."

Benardi and Councilman James B. Potter Jr. have asked City administrator C. Erwin Piper for a breakdown on its cost, including sums not specifically listed for the purpose in departmental budgets. The council has appropriated \$35,000 out of its general city purposes fund.

Yorty described this year's program, scheduled for Sept. 3-7, as

"modest, appropriate but meaningful."

He emphasized that a downtown parade would not be held this year as it was in 1967.

"Frankly, I thought it was a failure," the mayor said. "It was too long and there wasn't enough attention."

The big parade this year is scheduled for Los Angeles Harbor, with the theme, "Happiness Is a Parade."

In announcing that he has not reached a decision on Boggs' contract, Yorty defended him as a businessman.

Boggs' contract, which expired in June, 1967, is scheduled to be considered by the Recreation and Park Commission today as part of a general review of city golf contracts.

The department has recommended that it be renewed.

Boggs reportedly earned close to \$100,000 last year from the concession.

Some commissioners have questioned the amount of his income in view of the scheduled hike in golf fees from \$3.50 to \$4 on municipal 18-hole golf courses Aug. 1.

Profits Studied

Asked why the city shouldn't operate the course and earn the profit, Yorty said he wasn't sure the city operation could be done as efficiently as by private individuals.

There is no assurance that profits would accrue to the city, he said.

When a reporter noted the extent of Boggs' earnings, Yorty said he was "the exception."

"I don't want to penalize people for being successful," he remarked.

Yorty reminded reporters that he has referred the contract to the CAO for a recommendation and that he would "take a good look at it" before it was approved.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Interviews In Sirhan Case: 4000

Investigations in the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused of the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, will require 4000 police interviews, according to Mayor Sam Yorty.

Some of the interviews already have been conducted, the Mayor said, but the job is far from being done.

Investigation will continue right up until Sirhan's forthcoming trial "so that we know all there is to know," the mayor said.

Total costs of the Sirhan case to the city are not yet known. The \$215,000 for Sirhan's guarding and maintenance announced by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn includes only county costs and does not take in city costs, the mayor said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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C. B. 7/19

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Sirhan Bishara Sirhan will not enter a plea at a hearing in a closely guarded Hall of Justice court today, said his attorney, Russell E. Parsons. He will seek a postponement for reasons he will not disclose until the hearing, the attorney added. It would be the second time Parsons has asked for a continuance before Sirhan pleads to charges that he murdered Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. The first postponement was requested because Parsons was new to the case and hadn't had time to familiarize himself with details.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-2 Los Angeles Times
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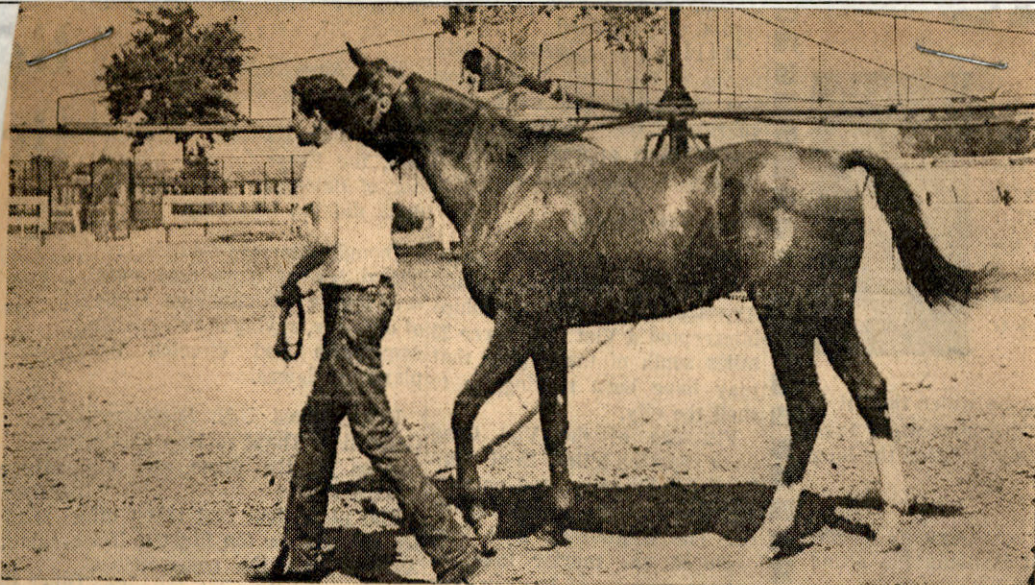
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



—Staff Photo by Richard Drew

SIRHAN'S JOB—A groom at the Granja Vista Del Rio Ranch in Corona demonstrates to newsmen the work Sirhan Sirhan used to do when exercising race horses. Sirhan, according to records, was thrown from a horse while riding on the track in the background.

Mishap to Sirhan May Shape Plea

Awarded \$1,705 Claim for Fall Off Horse; Medical Data Cited

By J. ROBERT SMITH

Staff Writer
(C) 1968, The Independent Star-News

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Richard A. Schauer continued the hearing for plea of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, of Pasadena, until 9 a.m., Aug. 2, in order to have physicians examine him.

Sirhan is charged with the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy of New York, following Kennedy's primary victory speech at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles last June 5.

At the request of Russell E. Parsons, the Jordanian's attorney, Judge Schauer last Friday appointed Dr. Edward Davis, a neurosurgeon, to take an encephalogram of Sirhan, usually made to determine if there is any existing brain damage.

Parsons noted that Dr. Davis would require a technician to go to the jail with him when the brain test is made. The attorney earlier indicated he may at-

tempt to prove Sirhan had suffered brain damage in a fall from a horse at Corona about Sept. 25, 1966.

Based on Fall

The lawyer is expected to enter a plea of innocent and innocent by reason of insanity for Sirhan, and the insanity plea would be based upon the fall.

Parsons also indicated that he needed a report from the brain and other medical experts in order to guide him as to what plea to enter.

Did the fall from a horse mentally affect Sirhan?

A neurosurgeon who examined Sirhan for brain injury following the incident reported that he found no evidence of a neurological problem.

This was revealed through a check by this newspaper into the records of the State Workmen's Compensation Appeals Board which awarded Sirhan a \$2,000 minimal claim.

Examined Sirhan

Other doctors who examined Sirhan found that "there is nothing whatsoever in the patient's examination to substantiate a claim for an organic injury," and "I can only state that this

young man has a most excellent pair of eyes."

Dr. E. Gordon Kiehn, 48, N. El Molino Ave., Pasadena, who examined Sirhan on April 4, 1967, wrote, "X-rays ordered by me have indicated no evidence of a foreign body, no evidence of any fractures in and about the orbit, and said X-rays are essentially negative."

He added, however, "Inas-

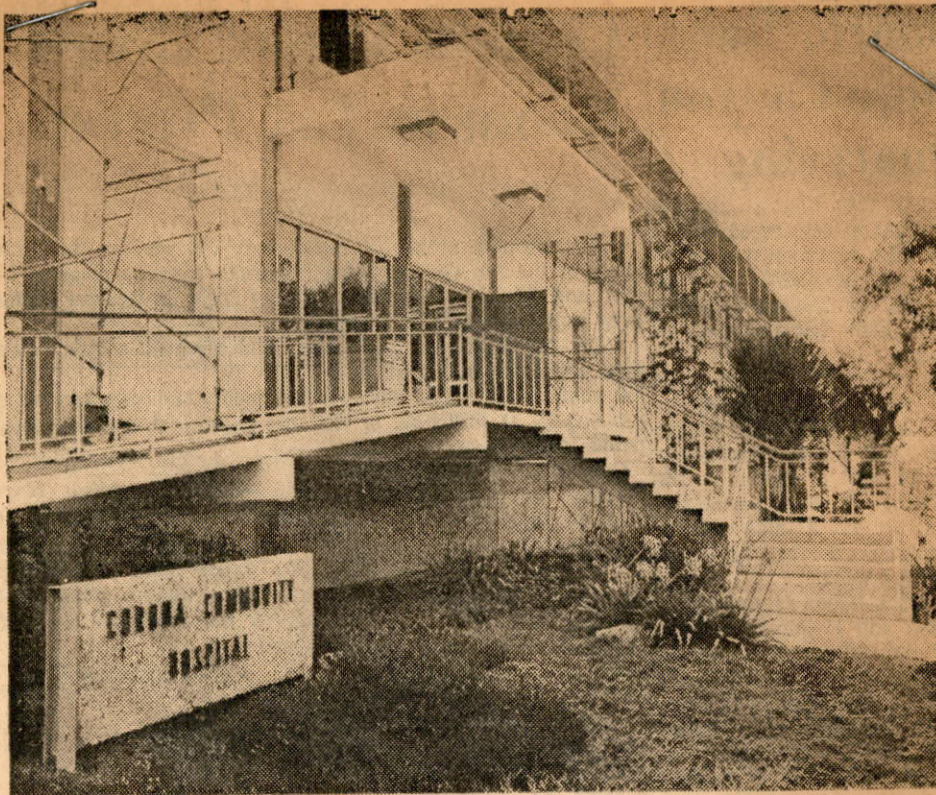
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—Staff Photo by Richard Drew

TREATMENT RECORDED—After Sirhan Sirhan was reportedly thrown from a horse at the exercise grounds of the Granja Vista Del Rio Ranch, he was taken for treatment to Corona Community Hospital. Defense counsel questions whether alleged injury affected him.

Sirhan . . .

Continued from Page 1

much as he was unconscious and had not been seen by a neurologist or a neurosurgeon, I believe it would be advisable to have him seen by a neurosurgeon to rule out any damage to the brain that might have occurred at the time of this injury."

On Sept. 5, 1967, Dr. Forrest L. Johnson, 1052 W. Sixth St., Los Angeles, a neurosurgeon, examined Sirhan, and according to the board records reported, "I found no evidence of a neurological problem at this time. I believe this patient is capable of returning to work as a stable boy at this time."

In his application for adjudication of the claim, dated last Feb. 7, Sirhan, through his Pasadena attorneys Ernest A. Palmer Jr. and Anne P. Toomer, stated that he was born March 9, 1944, and was employed as exercise boy, Sept. 25, 1966, at Corona, and sustained injury to the left eye and lower back.

The board records state: "Injury received as follows: thrown off filly while exercising her; breezing her at full speed. Actual earnings at time of injury \$375 per month. Medical treatment received April 6, 1967. All treatment was furnished by the employer or insurance company."

The employer recorded was Bert C. Altfillisch of the Altfillisch Construction Co., 13200 Citrus Ave., Corona, owner of the Granja Vista Del Rio Ranch.

Negative for Fractures

According to the records Dr. Richard A. Nelson, 760 S. Washburn St., Corona, examined Sirhan the day of the fall and reported, "X-rays taken at Corona Community Hospital. Negative for fractures. No permanent disability or disfigurement was expected."

Dr. Nelson's report also mentioned that Sirhan suffered laceration of the left upper eyelid, and there were bilateral foreign bodies (sand) in his eyes.

However, on Nov. 22, 1966, Dr. Paul Nilsson, 824 S. Main St., Corona, examined Sirhan and according to his findings, "the vision in each eye is 20-20. No permanent disability anticipated."

He was also examined by Dr. Maurice W. Nugent, 1127 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles on Oct. 10, 1967, and Dr. Nugent said, "I can only state that this young man has a most excellent pair of eyes."

Evidence that Sirhan had returned to his regular work was brought out in an examination report made by Dr. Martin Albori, 739 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles.

Dated Dec. 18, 1967, his findings were, "Based upon the submitted records there was temporary disability for about two weeks by which time the patient resumed lighter work and about two weeks later, he resumed his previous regular work."

Other physicians who examined Sirhan were Dr. Robert E. Lewis of the Good Samaritan Radiological Medical Group. He said he found Sirhan's skull normal and also his lumbar spine.

Dr. Albert Tashima, an ophthalmologist, 6753 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, wrote, "there is nothing whatsoever in the patient's examination to substantiate a claim of an organic injury."

Awarded Claim

Sirhan was awarded a claim for \$1,705 last March 27. According to the board records the law firm of Palmer and Toomer was paid \$200; Dr. Nugent, \$50, and Dr. Leonard J. Yarnishon, of Los Angeles, \$45. It was learned that Sirhan cashed his check received last Mar. 27 at the Crocker Citizens National Bank, 709 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena.

From the board records, Sirhan was not at first satisfied with the \$2,000 award.

The record stated, "While not shocked when they learned that at first completely satisfied he was the accused assassin."

with the amount of the compromise and release, after the situation was explained to him and the wide variance in the medical reports, he indicated that under the circumstances the settlement would be satisfactory."

His attorney, Mrs. Toomer, would not divulge how much Sirhan's original claim was without her client's consent.

An interview by this newspaper with his co-workers at the ranch, his former neighbors, patrons at bars he frequented, service station employees, hospital attendants at Norco and Corona revealed that they all thought Sirhan to have been a very polite and quiet person who bothered no one and minded his own business.

They all said they were

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Fails in Bid for Sleeping Pills, Wins Delay on Plea

BY DIAL TORGERTSON
Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan sought unsuccessfully to make a deal with Superior Court Friday to get sleeping pills.

At a court convened deep within the Hall of Justice jail, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was asked if he would agree to a waiver granting psychiatrists his jail medical records.

For the first time in four court appearances Sirhan gave more than brief yes and no replies.

"I have constantly been asking for sleeping pills," he said. "If they give me sleeping pills, I'll waive it."

His attorney, Russell E. Parsons, held a quick, whispered conference with Sirhan. Then he spoke for his client:

"Mr. Sirhan has agreed to waive," he said.

Jail Physician's Duty

After Sirhan agreed to the waiver nothing further was said in court about sleeping pills. But, though the judge didn't agree to Sirhan's condition, Parsons said later he felt it was the jail physician's duty to see that the pill request was satisfied.

Sirhan was brought to court Friday for plea. A two-week continuance was granted at his lawyer's request.

The waiver of the traditional doctor-patient relationship — between Sirhan and County Jail physician Marcus Crhan — was needed to facilitate psychiatric and neurological examinations requested by Parsons.

His request that the plea hearing be continued until Aug. 2, to allow time for completion of doctors' reports, was granted by Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

Parsons would not say what plea he expected Sirhan to enter. But he hinted at a possible defense when he told newsmen after the hearing that he had once saved a convicted murderer from the gas chamber by contending that a head blow had rendered him legally insane.

In September, 1966, Sirhan, employed as an exercise boy at a race track, suffered a head injury in a fall from a horse. He later demanded and received state disability for the injury.

Parsons received the court's permission to have Sirhan examined by Dr. Roderick Richardson, a psychologist, and Dr. Edward Davis, a neurosurgeon authorized to make an encephalogram of Sirhan's brainwaves. Reports of two court-appointed psychiatrists are also pending.

At the same hearing, Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger filed notice his office was asking the court to vacate or modify Superior Judge Arthur L. Alarcon's June 7 order prohibiting persons with knowledge of the case from talking to news media.

Will Be Argued

That motion will be argued Aug. 2, in the same court where the Friday session was convened—a sheriff's briefing room on the 13th floor of the three-story jail facility atop the Hall of Justice.

A dozen sheriff's deputies stood around the room, intently watching an audience of 81, as the 18-minute hearing was conducted. They were under orders to eject immediately anyone who moved or stood up.

Windows of the room were blocked by sheets of quarter-inch armorplate. Extra guards stood at every entrance and exit of the 15-story structure. A sheriff's helicopter circled watchfully overhead.

Everyone admitted to the court was searched by sheriff's deputies before the session began. Deputies began searching spectators—who included Sirhan's brother, Adel, 29—two hours before the court session began at 9 a.m.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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*cc to Parsons
7/22/68*

Asked on Arrangements

Judge Schauer called "the matter of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan" before the prisoner was admitted, asking if either Parsons, for the defense, or Younger and Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, for the prosecution, wished to comment on the makeshift circumstances of the court.

Neither side did.

"The bailiff will now please bring in the defendant," said Judge Schauer.

Sirhan, 24, stepped quickly in from a side door, having been brought 50 feet from his cell nearby. He was wearing a blue dress shirt, open at the collar over a white T-shirt; tight, dark trousers, and loafer-type shoes. He slightly needed a haircut. A shadow of heavy beard was visible despite what looked like a fairly recent shave.

He shook hands warmly with Parsons, a thin, elderly man in a black suit. Sirhan waved at his brother, neatly dressed in a conservative blue suit and sitting in a roped-off section of seats among high-ranking sheriff's officers at the front of the room.

'Are You Sirhan?'

"Are you Sirhan?" asked the judge.

"Yes sir," he said, briskly.

"Are you ready to plea?"

"Not yet," interjected Parsons, explaining that he had received only preliminary reports from one court-appointed psychiatrist and none from the second, and wanted the psychologist and the neurosurgeon to examine the prisoner.

The judge asked if all parties were agreeable to waiving the traditional privilege given matters between a doctor and a patient—in this case the jail doctor and Sirhan—so Dr. Crahan could tell examining doctors about Sirhan's behavior in jail.

Surprise to Parsons

It was then that Sirhan made his request for sleeping pills. It was, apparently, a surprise to Parsons. He explained to newsmen later:

"He said he wanted some sleeping pills," Parsons said. "He asked if the judge would kindly order doctors to give him some sleeping pills. He has not

been resting too well. I don't rest too well myself. You wake up at 2 or 3 a.m. and think about things.

"The judge in effect made an order that reports of the jail doctor should be made available as asked." Would Sirhan get the pills?

"It's the doctor's duty to see that this man is properly cared for," Parsons said.

Jurist Explains

"The court did not entertain the defendant's request for medication," Judge Schauer said later. "The court did not order any medication for the defendant nor could it do so, since that would be a function of the medical profession."

Has Sirhan been refused sleeping pills—and would he get any now? Officials of the jail medical facility declined comment, referring questions to the Sheriff's Information Bureau, which said it couldn't reply because of the court order made by Judge Alarcon.

Younger said he hopes that the order would be vacated.

"It's too restrictive," said Younger to a newsman later. "We're not anxious to have a precedent established where we could be muzzled like that, far beyond what we consider logical and proper."

"Ninety-nine per cent of the area covered we don't make any comment about, anyway. We don't normally comment about the guilt or innocence of a party, or about evidence. But, beyond that, we think the public interest demands more—the answers to certain questions."

Cites Examples

"Questions such as, 'Is there any evidence of a conspiracy? Is there a foreign government involved? Is there a plot on behalf of an extremist group?'"

"Suppose it was widely rumored that the killing of Sen. Kennedy was done as an assassination hired by Nasser (president of the Republic of Egypt)? I think it would be best to answer this question. Under the court order I am unable to reply."

Security measures more intense than any seen before in the Hall of Justice were ordered for the protection of the Jordanian-born defendant, subject since the June 5 shooting of Sen. Kennedy of countless anonymous threats against his life.

"The family is quite satisfied with the security arrangements," said Adel Sirhan, looking around the heavily guarded room after the hearing. He was brought from the Sirhans' Pasadena home by Pasadena detective Ben Hetherington and Michael McGowan, Parsons' investigator.

"The sheriff's department has been very cooperative in letting us come to see him," Adel said. Had Sirhan discussed with Adel his problems about sleeping? "It could be," said Adel.

Constant Guard

Sirhan is under round-the-clock guard, an officer with him at all times in the 6-by-8-foot cell. Guards are changed every 30 or 40 minutes, Sheriff Peter Pitchess said earlier this week.

Parsons said that Sirhan's mother, Mary, often visits him—and that they pray together.

The attorney said that,

in his cell, "Sirhan reads constantly. He's a constant student, a deep reader." He prefers books by and about great men, including Mohandas K. Gandhi, the Indian apostle of nonviolence, who was himself assassinated in 1948.

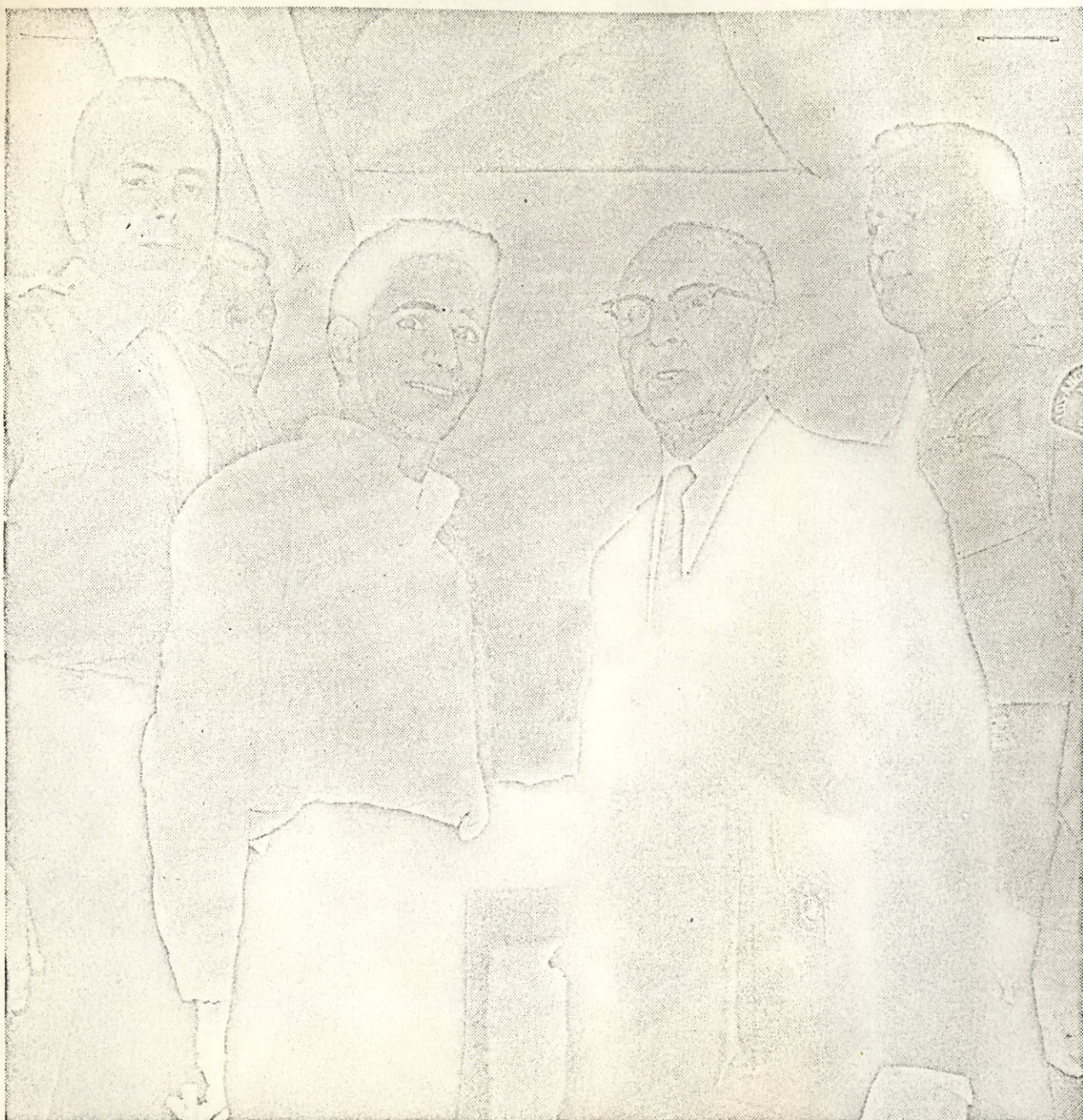
In reviewing the importance of a full study of Sirhan's mental compe-

tence, Parsons cited the case of Darryl Thomas Kemp, convicted and sentenced to die in 1959 for the 1957 rape-murder of a nurse, Marjorie Hipper-son, in a Los Feliz-area apartment.

Parsons, an attorney with a long string of appeals victories to his credit, took the case after the conviction and won

Kemp a stay of execution, a sanity hearing, and, finally, his life.

"Kemp was to be executed," Parsons said, "but what his mother said was found to be true—he had been injured playing football. As a result we had a jury trial in Marin County and they found him presently insane. He's now in a state insane asylum."



AFTER THE HEARING—Sirhan B. Sirhan stands with his attorney, Russell B. Parsons, before depu-

ties return him to his cell after a hearing in a heavily guarded courtroom in the Hall of Justice.
Times photo by John Malmin

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Curb on Photos of Kennedy's Body Asked

SACRAMENTO (UPI)

The State Senate was asked Saturday to forbid widespread exploitation of more than 300 pictures taken of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's body after his assassination.

The fact that the pictures were taken during the post-mortem and autopsy of the late New York Senator was disclosed during debate over a rider on a bill already approved by the State Assembly.

The bill was co-sponsored by Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh (D-Inglewood), chairman of the state's 174-member delegation to the Democratic National Convention.

The bill by Unruh and Assemblyman Frederick J. Bear (D-San Diego), originally contained provision only to forbid evidence obtained by electronic eavesdropping from being used in court trials in California.

But it was amended Friday afternoon — without a public announcement — to require a judge's order before anyone could obtain copies of the Kennedy pictures.

Sen. Donald L. Grunsky (R-Watsonville), GOP leader of the upper house, pressed for passage of the amended bill with the provision in it — and ran into opposition that prevented action Saturday.

On a roll call, the vote was 25 to 4 — two votes short of the necessary two-thirds majority, as a result, Grunsky asked the Senate to reconsider the bill again, possibly Monday.

He disclosed that more than 300 photographs were taken of the senator's body by Los Angeles County officials and said Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger may use some of them in the trial of Kennedy's accused assassin, Sirhan B. Sirhan.

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56-156-H-519

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SIRHAN GIVEN TWO WEEKS TO COMPLETE MENTAL TESTS

Pre-trial proceedings for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan have been delayed for two weeks to allow time for completion of additional psychiatric and

brain damage tests of the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant, accused as the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan made an 18-minute appearance in an armor-plated, heavily guarded special courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice.

He listened with bird-like alertness and at one point asked Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer if he could have sleeping pills "because I haven't been resting too well."

Judge Schauer granted a

two-week continuance in the case until Aug. 2, at the request of defense counsel Russell Parsons.

Extensive mental tests being given Sirhan support reports he may eventually enter a dual plea of not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity.

The court also granted permission for a psychologist, Roderick Richardson, and a neurologist, Dr. Edward Davis, to examine Sirhan in his isolated cell on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice.

Parsons told the judge he has received only two preliminary reports from court-appointed psychiatrist Dr. Eric Marcus. He said no report has been submitted by Dr. George Abo of Norwalk State Hospital who was appointed three weeks ago.

Yesterday marked the second time Sirhan has appeared in court under heavy guard and failed to enter a plea in connection with the assassination which occurred on the night of the California presidential primary.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SIRHAN AS VIEWED

BY WINCHELL

By WALTER WINCHELL

Row A, Hall of Justice, Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer presiding.

Moments before His Honor took the bench, we asked District Attorney E. J. Younger to request that the court edict banning free publication of the case in California (unless permitted by the D. A. or police) be vacated or amended.

"Newspapers from New York City and nationally circulated magazines," we reminded, "containing news about the accused man are available daily at Los Angeles hotels and other newsstands."

Mr. Younger said he planned discussing the subject with the court and he did so briefly. Judge Schauer said he would consider it.

Sirhan Sirhan kept biting his lower lip throughout the 18-minute session. He kept looking at his brother Adel, among up-front spectators. When he caught his eye, Sirhan smiled and once waved his fingers at Adel.

Deputy Assistant DA D. Compton, the prosecutor, is a former all-American. . . "He played at the Rose Bowl," said Mr. Younger. . . Adel Sirhan was surrounded by two deputy sheriffs. (Protection from the press). . . Nearby in a first-row seat was attractive Mary Virginia Pittman of Houston, Tex. Her millinery was a beret (tany o' shanter) and when newsmen wondered "who's she?" a wag said, "Bonnie of Bonnie and Clyde" . . . She told us she was a free lance reporter, radio broadcaster and deputy sheriff in Texas.

Newcomers among the press included reporters from Australia, Spain, and Sweden. . . News people from many other foreign places (assigned to cover Hollywood) attended. . . Sheriff Peter Pitchess planned accommodating "about 80 members of the press but that would mean adding another row of chairs which the judge vetoed" . . . There were press seats for 67.

The spectator section seated 21 persons. These included county officials and some citizens. . . Many of the foreign press who applied for admission failed to show. . . probably because of the announcement (the day before) that Sirhan Sirhan's counsel, Russell Parsons, would request another continuance and not permit his client to plead. . .

Plainclothes sleuths seated alongside of this reporter kept watching the artist (sketching the principals) and his colleague who put the drawings in an attache case. . . Every time we reached for our pencil (in a breast pocket) the detectives followed every inch of the movement so tight was the security.

When the defendant and His Honor left the mini-courtroom the press bombarded defense counsel with queries . . . "Mr.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2 Herald-Examiner
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Parsons." We asked the co-operative-with-the-press lawyer, "did you know that the court edict restricting the press out here doesn't stop Eastern newspapers and newsmags containing stories that may prejudice prospective jurors from newsstands in L. A.?"

"I've heard about that and I am sending for them," said Mr. Parsons.

"Three weeks ago," we added, "you told us all that you found about 40 books in Sirhan's room at his home and that you brought them to him. What books does he read?"

"Books about great men."

"For instance."

"Great men like Gandhi,"

"Kennedy?" we asked, not sure of the name.

There was a loud thud of silence.

"Gandhi!" exclamation-pointed Parsons.

Later, in the corridor, we asked a jurist if he didn't think the court edict was a violation of the First Amendment.

"Yes," he replied, "why don't you make a test case of it? You'd win!"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Cost of Holding Sirhan

According to the newspaper the cost of holding Sirhan has amounted to over \$219,000 and inasmuch that the taxpayers have to foot the bill maybe The Times could obtain and publish an itemized statement as to how this money was spent.

I am sure that the rooms at the local jail are quite reasonable, meals included.

Sirhan could stay at one of the finest hotels for a year for a lot less than the amount spent to-date.

IVOR STEWART
Los Angeles

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has said he obtained an accounting from the county auditor that disclosed that \$210,629 had been spent through July 7. The total cost, however, is deceptive. Some of the costs would occur for any prisoner under normal conditions. Others, including \$46,946 listed as "extraordinary expenditure" by the mechanical department, are misleading. Of the latter amount, \$20,000 for protective devices may never be spent in the event of a change of venue and \$11,000 for a kitchen and air-conditioning unit had been budgeted previously and would probably be spent even if there was no Sirhan case.—Ed.

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II-4 Los Angeles Times
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Sirhan Expected to Enter Plea of Not Guilty in Assassination

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is expected to plead not guilty Friday to the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sources indicated Wednesday that Sirhan's veteran attorney, Russell Parsons, has decided that there is no legal basis for a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity.

Such an insanity plea would require a psychiatric finding that Sirhan did not know the difference between right and wrong or that he could not appreciate the nature and quality of his acts shortly after midnight on June 5 when he allegedly fired three shots into Sen. Kennedy and wounded five other persons.

If Parsons has reached such a decision it would indicate that the two court-appointed psychiatrists—Drs. Eric Marcus and George Abe—have probably found that the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant does not meet the test for legal insanity.

One source said that Parsons has not yet received the report of Dr. Roderick Richardson, court-appointed psychologist, and for that reason could still reevaluate his decision as to how Sirhan should plead or even ask for another continuance pending receipt of that report.

A continuance on such a ground probably would be granted by Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

It is unlikely, however, that Parsons would base an insanity plea solely on a psychological analysis if the findings contained in such a study are contrary to those of two psychiatrists.

Another alternative (to pleading or seeking a continuance) open to the defense Friday would be a motion to dismiss the charges,

possibly on the basis that the grand jury which indicted Sirhan did not properly represent a cross-section of the county's population.

Such a motion, which would require arguments at a later date, must be made prior to the time of entering a plea.

If Parsons decides to plead Sirhan not guilty by reason of insanity, Judge Schauer would be required to appoint two additional psychiatrists. Their findings would be available to the prosecution and the court, as well as the defense.

Used to Determine Plea

The reports of Drs. Marcus and Abe are confidential and were given only to Parsons so he could use them to assist him in determining which plea the defendant should enter.

Court observers believe that if only a plea of not guilty is entered, Parsons and whoever assists him in trying the case, will, in the face of the evidence—some of it from eyewitnesses—against Sirhan, center their efforts in two directions:

1—Save him from the death penalty.

2—Invoke the so-called defense of diminished capacity to lessen the degree of the offense.

The prosecution already has anticipated the latter strategy by employing a psychiatric adviser, Dr. Seymour Pollack.

Dr. Pollack has been observing Sirhan in his last two court appearances.

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Q O Richards

—and is expected to continue to do so—and probably would be called as a witness to counter defense psychiatric testimony.

The controversial diminished capacity or partial insanity defense, as it sometimes is called, has been evolving in California since 1949.

In using it, the defense attempts to show through psychiatric evidence that because of some mental disease or defect the defendant could not form the specific intent, malice and premeditation required for the conviction of first-degree murder.

Prior to 1949, the courts of this state had ruled against partial insanity as a defense, holding that insanity is either a complete defense (requiring a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity) or no defense at all.

In several decisions since that time the defense has been broadened.

The defense of diminished capacity does not result in an exoneration, only in a reduction from first to second-degree murder or even manslaughter, depending on the extent to which mental disease can be shown.

(First-degree murder carries a penalty of death or life in prison. Second degree is punishable by five years to life and manslaughter by one to 15 years.)

Diminished capacity

generally is considered to be a surprise defense. However, since the existing state evidence code became effective last year, the prosecution at the time the trial begins can request that such a defense be declared.

Judge Schauer, who presides over the criminal departments of the Superior Court, again will hear the Sirhan matter in a 50 x 46-foot minicourtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice.

Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess has announced that tight security precautions to protect the defendant again will be in effect.

Judge Schauer is not expected to assign the case to a trial court at this time (if a plea is entered), although he probably will set a trial date, which later could be subject to change for a variety of reasons.

Trial courts, and the naming of a judge, normally are assigned at the time of pleading, but it is not unusual for such assignments to be withheld in special cases—generally those which are expected to result in prolonged trials.

The Sirhan matter could be classified as a special case by its very nature.

The assignment of a judge to hear the trial—if it is set during his calendar year tenure as presid-

ing criminal judge—reportedly will be made by Judge Schauer.

The jurist also is expected Friday to hear arguments by Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger's office to vacate or further modify a court order prohibit-

ing certain publicity in the case.

Younger indicated two weeks ago that he feels the order is too restrictive, that parts of it are not in the public interest and that it might establish a dangerous precedent.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bill on Death Pictures of Kennedy OK'd

Exclusive to The Times from
a Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — The Assembly gave final passage Thursday to a bill designed to forbid exploitation of more than 300 pictures taken of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's body after his assassination.

The measure was coauthored by Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh (D-Inglewood), chairman of the state's 174-member delegation to the Democratic National Convention originally pledged to Sen. Kennedy.

Unruh was near Sen. Kennedy when he was shot down in the Ambassador moments after he had claimed victory in the California Democratic presidential primary.

As originally introduced the bill merely would have prohibited the use in court trials of evidence obtained by electronic eavesdropping.

A rider, limiting the use of the Kennedy pictures taken during post mortem and autopsy of the senator's body, was tacked to the bill in the Senate at the request of Unruh and Assemblyman Frederick J. Bear (D-San Diego).

It would require a judge's order before anyone could obtain copies of the Kennedy pictures.

Bear explained that the rider was requested by Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger, who said he may use some of the pictures in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, Kennedy's accused assassin.

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Police Rebut Statements By Sirhan

Pasadena police officials, who gave Saidallah B. Sirhan round-the-clock protection after he said shots were fired at him, today rebutted Sirhan's remarks that he was subjected to a "third degree" and an illegal search.

Saidallah, brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, said the police gave him a lie detector test "similar to a third degree about 9:30" the morning of the shots.

"The polygraph test came in the afternoon after routine questioning," replied Lt. Gerald E. Wright, of the investigative section. "We do not use the 'third degree.'"

The "third degree" refers to quizzing accompanied by physical maltreatment of the subject.

Saidallah complained that after the July 3 incident, his home was searched by an "FBI man ... without a search warrant" and that Saidallah was subjected to insult.

"We do not know of any FBI man being involved," said Lt. Wright. "Saidallah gave me his personal permission for our Sgt. Ben Hetherington and a Los Angeles detective to go with him to his house to look for evidence."

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Page 3
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Police Call Saidallah's Story No Hoax**Sirhan's Brother Tells of Shooting Night****By J. ROBERT SMITH**

Staff Writer

(c) 1968 The Pasadena Independent Star-News

The circumstances preceding the July 3 early morning shooting at Saidallah Bishara Sirhan, 36, of Pasadena, have been revealed for the first time in an exclusive interview with Saidallah by this newspaper.

Saidallah is the brother of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, also of Pasadena, who is charged

with the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last June 3.

Saidallah had reported to Pasadena police who have since agreed, that he was shot at while driving the Pasadena Freeway early July 3.

Pasadena Chief of Police Samuel H. Addis told this newspaper that "based upon the facts that we have now, there is nothing to indicate that the incident is a hoax. I believe it did happen."

In the interview, Saidallah said that the Pasadena police had given him a very rigid lie detector test. Lt. Gerald E. Wright, head of the detective bureau, verified the giving of the test, but refused to tell its result.

Saidallah also said that he was given a similar test by Enrique Hernandez of the Los Angeles Police Department. The result also is undisclosed because Hernandez took refuge

under a court order which he said prevented him from talking about the test.

Discrepancies in released reports prompted this newspaper to seek Saidallah in an effort to determine what actually happened that early morning.

This is his story, in the words in which he replied to questions asked:

"I wanted to meet Liza Williams, a columnist on the Free Press. She writes a column call-

ed 'Grey Power.' I read it every week. I met her at David Saldals Shop, 68 N. Fair Oaks Ave., about three months ago.

"I wanted to consult with her about the laws of publishing regarding reporters using my name for exploitation in any document.

"I phoned the Pasadena Free Press office and asked for her address the night before the shooting, and they gave me an address such as 92 Fairfax, Los Angeles.

("The address listed in the paper's masthead is 938 N. Fairfax, Los Angeles.)

"The Pasadena office also told me if I wanted more information to call the Hollywood Free Press. I was told that it was located at 65 something

street. The name sounded like a Spanish term.

"Early the next morning, about four o'clock I went to find her to avoid the traffic and exposing myself to the public during the day in an area that I am not familiar with.

"After being in that area for a while and not finding what I was looking for, I decided to come back home.

"I took Beverly Boulevard to Hill Street and on into the Pasadena Freeway where I encountered the Chevrolet and the Volkswagen bus. There were three people in the Chevrolet, and four in the Volkswagen.

"I still want to talk to Miss Williams."

Shooting Episode

Saidallah then told of the shooting episode which substantially corresponded with the report of the incident released by police. He said the Chevrolet and Volkswagen bus were the vehicles that pursued him on the freeway when the two shots coming from the bus were fired at him.

He said the entire trip from Pasadena and back took about one-and-a-half hours.

Asked whether he was given a lie detector test by police, Saidallah replied, "The Pasadena police gave me a lie detector test similar to a third degree about 9:30 that morning, and I was also given another in Los Angeles by Mr. Hernandez about three to five days later."

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Page 1
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—AP Wirephoto

POLICE RILE SIRHAN BROTHER—Saidallah Bishara Sirhan accuses Pasadena policeman Ben Hetherington (left) of trying to force him to admit that he did the shooting at his own car which he reported July 3 as being done by men in a car which followed his auto early that morning on the Pasadena Freeway.

This newspaper asked Lt. Wright whether Saidallah was given the test, and he admitted it. Asked what was the result, Wright replied, "We do not discuss that." He also refused to tell who gave the test. Saidallah said it was a sergeant whose name he did not remember.

When asked this question, "Since you have said Saidallah did not do the shooting, after he was given a polygraph test, is it not evident then that the test cleared him?" to which Wright replied, "No comment."

In an interview Chief Addis said, "Based upon the facts that we have now, there is nothing to indicate that it is a hoax. I believe the shooting did happen."

The following is the question and answer interview with Addis and Lt. Wright:

What is the status of the alleged shooting incident?

Wright: We have made a full investigation of it. Nothing has turned up for us to hang our hats on or get a suspect. We cannot come up with anything to disprove this man's story.

Do you think that the alleged incident might be connected with the assassination?

Wright: No, not at all.

Regarding the shots being fired and Sirhan slumping aside, do you believe that?

Wright: I have to believe that.

Why do you have to believe that?

Wright: If I said I didn't believe it, I could not answer the next question you would ask, namely: Why?

(Lt. Wright then explained his personal investigation into the trajectory of the projectile coming from the location described by Saidallah. He said that his story made sense.)

Wright: We recreated the incident. It is very possible he was shot at from the Volkswagen.

Los Angeles detectives are reported to be also working on the case. Have they come up with anything?

Wright: No.

Have you learned what Saidallah was really doing in Los Angeles so early that morning?

Wright: Just what he said about looking for a woman reporter on the Free Press down on 92nd or 93rd Street.

Are you convinced and satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident did happen?

Addis: I cannot say that. In cases of this kind we are never convinced or satisfied until the

facts wholly support our conviction or satisfaction, that it either happened or did not happen, but based upon the facts we have now, I think it happened.

Then you believe his story?

Addis: I have to.

If it were not for Judge Alarcon's court order, could you tell more:

Addis: No.

Is this case considered closed?

Addis: No. It is open until either we arrest the people who did it, or prove it never happened. Until then, we will have someone assigned to it.

Saidallah complained that an FBI agent and Pasadena policeman Ben Hetherington tried to treat him like a "mendicant." "They wanted me to say that I did the shooting myself, and that FBI man searched my home looking for guns without a search warrant. He was very nasty," Saidallah related.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SIRHAN PLEA—Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused of murder in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, finally entered a plea of not guilty in a closely guarded Los Angeles courtroom. The 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant spoke but 10 words during the 22-minute hearing Friday, denying his guilt and approving a trial date later than guaranteed by his constitutional right to a "speedy trial." This was to allow time for a second attorney to join in preparing his defense and Superior Judge Richard A. Schauer set trial date for Nov. 1.

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THREE MONTHS TO SEE WHY?

Parsons Leaves Sirhan Plea Open To Change

Russell Parsons, the man defending Sirhan B. Sirhan against charges he shot and killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, has three months to determine "why—if this is the man—did he do it."

Although his client, smiling and poised, pleaded "not guilty" in an armored courtroom in County Jail yesterday, Parsons kept the door open to a possible change of plea to not guilty by reason of insanity or partial insanity.

The veteran attorney talked to the press after a 22-minute hearing at which Judge Richard Schauer set the trial date for Nov. 1 and then denied a prosecution request to revoke or modify a court order restricting publicity on the case.

Judge Schauer, however, did not name the trial judge or identify the courtroom in which the historic trial will take place. He reserved this information for an Oct. 4 public hearing in Superior Court.

Sirhan, who spoke only 10 words during yesterday's hearing, also pleaded innocent to charges he assaulted with intent to murder five other persons who were wounded by gunfire in the Ambassador Hotel corridor in which Kennedy was fatally shot.

The motion to ease up on publicity restrictions was submitted by District Attorney Evelle J. Younger, who said "we should let the people know as much as possible about the way the government is performing, including judges, the district attorney" and others.

He said it was "wrong" to assume that all publicity is bad and that attention given any matter in a criminal case necessarily means prejudice.

Parsons told newsmen he has been researching the Arab-Israeli war and the boyhood of Sirhan in what is now Israeli-occupied Jordan.

"Why—if this is the man—did he do it?" Parsons asked. "Was he able to formulate opinions? What are the factors? What is his condition. He's an Arab, you know. They're so different from us."

Parsons said Sirhan's boyhood "might have colored his whole life. What were the conditions under which he lived? Was a bomb ever dropped near him?"

Parsons continued to indicate Sirhan's mental condition would be a vital factor in his defense plans. He said brain wave tests have not been made yet and that he is continuing his study of reports by psychiatrists who examined Sirhan.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-4 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 8/3/68
Edition: 8 Star
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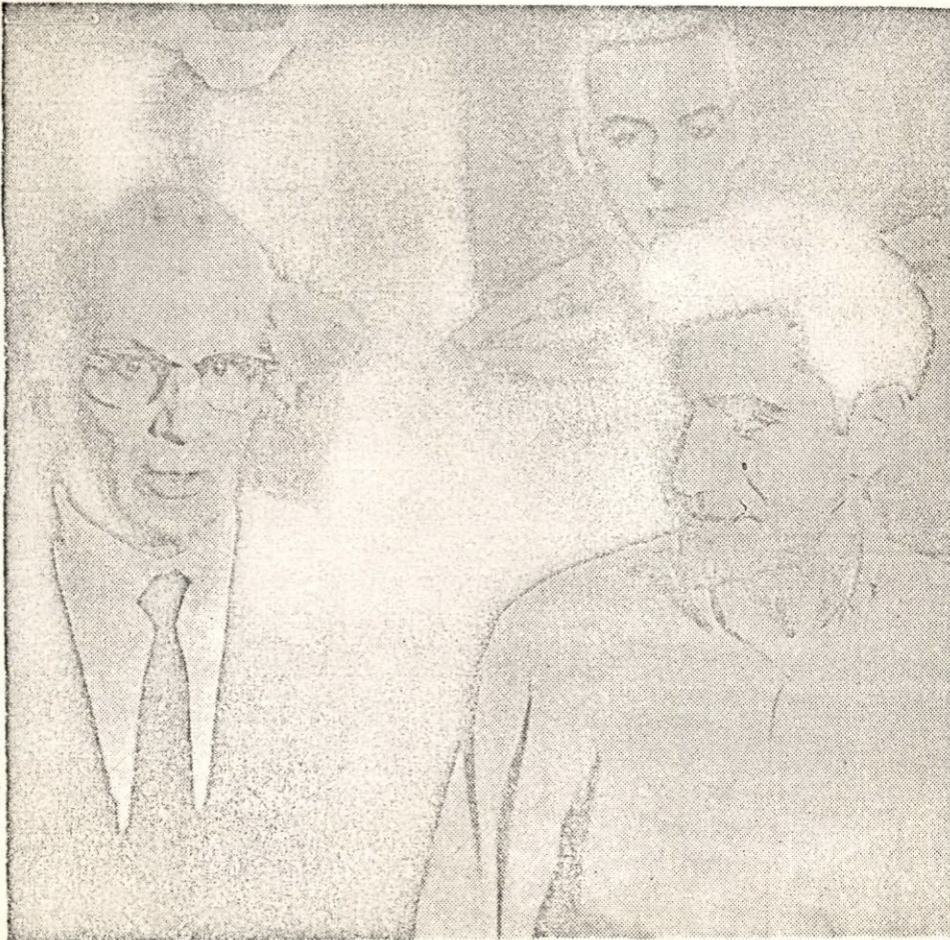
Classification: LA56-156
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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56-156-H-528

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1 AUG 5 1968	
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cc to Bu
8/5/68



Sirhan Sirhan, accused slayer of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and his attorney, Russell Parsons, are surrounded by guards as they leave the courtroom where a "not guilty" plea was submitted. Parsons kept the door open to a possible change of plea to "insanity."

At yesterday's hearing, Sirhan said "Yes, sir" twice—once to a question about his name and again when he assured the judge he personally waived his right to trial within 60 days of his arraignment. Moments earlier, his answer to the judge's question about a speedy trial was answered with: "We waive that right." The only other words he spoke were "not guilty" to the charges of murder and assault with intent to commit murder.

The courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice was marked with the same tight security precautions county officials have imposed since Sirhan was subdued and arrested moments after the June 5 shooting.

The heavily guarded Sirhan smiled often and appeared pleased with the proceedings. But he did not appear to take

notice of his mother and three brothers who sat in the courtroom.

Parsons said he was concerned with Sirhan's mental capacity prior to the Kennedy shooting and his subsequent behavior.

"You know," he said, "people sometimes lose their minds very suddenly. If a man is insane at the time of the trial you can't try him."

He pictured Sirhan as a man with a "nervous mentality. He relies on me. He gets on his knees and looks up in my face and talks to me like a baby.

"I haven't seen any evidence yet of any malice or premeditation," Parsons said. "I don't believe he realizes what has happened."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Enters Not Guilty Plea; Trial to Be Nov. 1

**Attorney Indicates Lack
of Malice May Be Issue
He Will Base Defense On**

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan pleaded not guilty to murder Friday in the June 5 slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

A trial date of Nov. 1 was set by Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

Although Sirhan entered a plea of innocence, it does not necessarily mean he is denying he committed the murder.

He is charged with murder, with malice aforethought.

A guilty plea would have been an admission of murder and could have resulted in the death penalty or life in prison if first degree.

The only way for a defendant to have a determination made of the degree of murder — unless one is specifically charged—is to be tried, either by a jury or a judge sitting without a jury.

Sirhan Chose a Trial

This apparently is what Sirhan did in the face of seemingly weighty eyewitness and circumstantial evidence against him.

At a press conference which followed the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant's appearance in court, Russell E. Parsons, Sirhan's attorney, seemed to confirm this when he said:

"I haven't seen any evidence yet that he had any malice . . ."

Parsons also said a not guilty plea "permits us to show the what and why—what are the real issues—if he is the man, why did he do it."

Sirhan, as had been anticipated, chose not to enter a so-called double plea of not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity. This could have required three trials.

The first, to determine whether he was guilty and the degree of guilt. A second, if convicted, to determine his sanity, and a final hearing, if convicted of first-degree murder, to fix the penalty.

Parsons still could, before the trial, legally add a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity.

The veteran criminal defense attorney explained out of court that by pleading not guilty, it does not mean that two court-appointed psychiatrists found that his client was legally sane.

However, he added that he has never entered only a single plea of not guilty when psychiatrists unanimously said a client of his was legally insane, that he did not know the difference between right and wrong or could not appreciate the nature and quality of his act.

Several Possibilities Open

With Sirhan pleading not guilty, if the prosecution is successful in showing that Sirhan fired the fatal shot, Parsons can seek to lower the degree of murder from first degree by:

1—Putting on evidence that the crime was not deliberate or premeditated which would make it second degree (punishable by five years to life in prison) or that there was no malice, which would make it manslaughter (a maximum of 15 years in prison).

2—Invoking the defense of diminished capacity, also known as partial insanity.

In using the latter defense Parsons would be attempting to show through psychiatric evidence that because of some mental disease or defect Sirhan could not form the specific intent, malice and premeditation required for the conviction of first-degree murder.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Los Angeles, Calif.

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This defense does not result in an exoneration, only in a reduction of the degree (to second or manslaughter), depending on the extent to which mental disease can be shown. Anticipating such a defense, Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger and his team of prosecutors has engaged Dr. Seymour Pollock as a psychiatric adviser.

Doctor Present

Dr. Pollock was present in court again Friday, observing Sirhan. He probably would be called as a witness to counter defense psychiatric testimony.

Sirhan, appearing in court for the fifth time, also pleaded not guilty to feloniously assaulting, with a deadly weapon and with intent to commit murder, five other persons wounded during the election night shooting spree at the Ambassador.

Judge Schauer withheld until Oct. 4 the naming of a judge to preside over the case.

That presumably will be Sirhan's next appearance in court unless Parsons makes legal motions, such, he said, as to suppress evidence he feels was improperly seized or makes attacks on the grand jury on the basis of some illegality.

He also could ask for a change of venue, but he indicated out of court that such would not be the case.

Parsons indicated that any such motions will be made at least 35 days prior to the trial.

Because a trial date of Nov. 1 is more than 60 days from the time Sirhan was indicted on June 7, Judge Schauer asked that he waive both his right to be tried within that period and his right to a speedy trial.

"We waive that right," Sirhan said in one of his longest responses since he has been appearing in court.

In pleading, Sirhan was emphatic.

Asked how he wished to plead, in a loud and clear voice, Sirhan said: "Not guilty."

Parsons indicated in court that he wanted a late trial setting—"on or about Nov. 1"—because the attorney who will be assisting him is now engaged in another trial (he has never disclosed the name of that lawyer) and because "it may be necessary to take depositions in the old country," referring to Sirhan's birth place in the Middle East.

Younger, assisted in court by Dep. Dist. Attys. John Howard and David Fitts, said he would prefer, under ordinary circumstances, an earlier trial date.

But Younger indicated that he may also need more time because the prosecution will be bringing in witnesses from all over the country.

In any event, Younger said his office preferred "a surer trial date" rather than "a maybe date."

Parsons said later he did not see any reason why the case could not go to trial as scheduled, although that seldom happens in this county.

Request on Publicity

At the start of the 22½-minute court session Friday, Younger again asked that Judge Schauer vacate or modify a court order restricting publicity in the case.

Opposing the motion were Parsons and A. L. Wirin, chief counsel of the Southern California chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. Wirin was allowed to appear as a "friend" of the court.

"Judge Schauer denied Younger's request, stating that "nothing is more clear at this time than that this case demands an order restricting publicity."

As was the case two weeks ago, court again was convened in a special facility on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice, just 50 feet from the isolated cell in which Sirhan is being held pending his trial.

Parsons opposed using the small 46 by 50-foot room for the trial.

Judge Schauer said he would select a courtroom on Oct. 4. It probably will be one of two courts in which criminal trials are regularly held on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice.

At times, while court was in session, Sirhan held Parsons' hand.

At the press conference, Parsons explained that his client did so because "he relies on me . . . looks on me as an adviser."

"He took my hand and help," the attorney added. "Sometimes he even gets on his knees and talks to me."

Seated in the courtroom were four members of Sirhan's family, his mother, Mary, and three of his four brothers, Adel, Sharif and Saidallah.

Parsons, asked how Sirhan would have reacted to an insanity plea, said:

"He listens to me and accepts my advice," indicating that the decision on how to plead was made by Parsons.

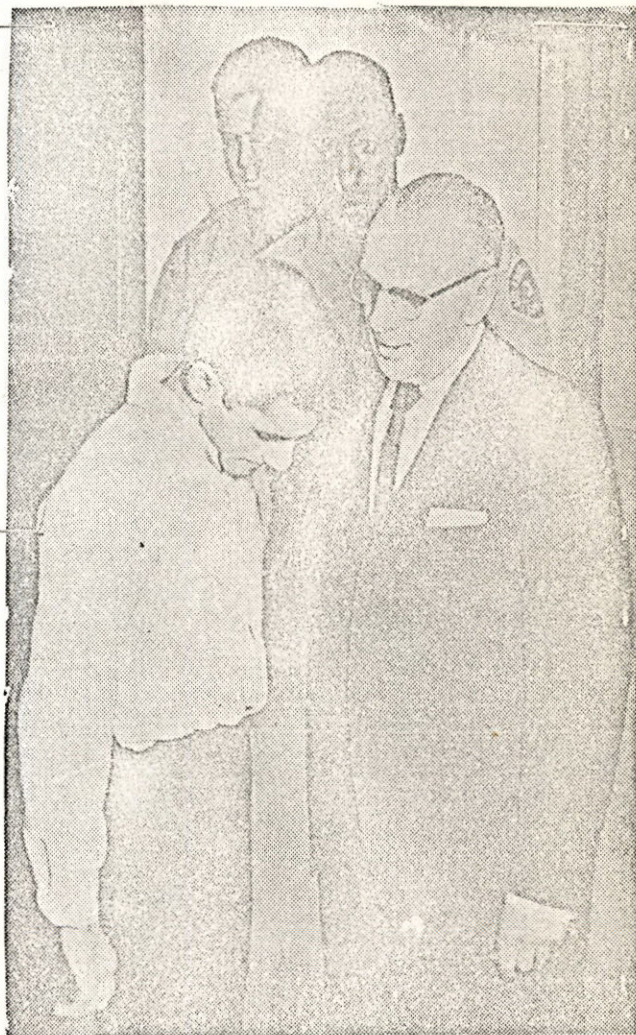
But, he said, he (Parsons) might change his mind — "sudden things might develop — people

sometimes lose their mind very suddenly."

The attorney said he has not yet determined whether Sirhan will testify at the trial, explaining, "Sometimes you have to wait until the last minute to decide that."

Parsons would not comment on whether Sirhan has shown any sorrow or remorse for the death of Sen. Kennedy.

He also refused to discuss his trial strategy "because we would have to go into the evidence and I never do that, even when there is no court order."



AFTER PLEA—Sirhan B. Sirhan and his attorney, Russell E. Parsons, confer as deputies lead the accused assassin of Robert F. Kennedy to his cell.

Times photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Younger Asks More Freedom Of Speech in Sirhan Case

District Attorney Evelle Younger's office today will request that more freedom of speech be given those involved in the Sirhan B. Sirhan investigation.

Sirhan, 24, is accused as the slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and the wounding of five others. He appeared in a heavily guarded courtroom this morning to plead his innocence or guilt.

The motion, to be filed by Younger's office at the hearing, seeks to void or modify a court order issued June 7, at Sirhan's first Superior Court appearance. That order, issued by Superior Court Judge Arthur L. Alarcon, specified that no one remotely connected with the case or having knowledge of the investiga-

tion could make public statements concerning the matter.

The newest motion, signed by Younger, states "The prosecution initiates this argument to advocate, as important and paramount, the right of fair disclosure."

A particularly pointed paragraph in the proposed change authorizes law enforcement agencies the right to discredit people who might attempt to contend they are integral parts of the case; when in fact they are merely seeking publicity or notoriety.

"The right of free speech is a means... and free press is a necessity... both vital, viable, and inseparable to the public interest," Younger said.

The district attorney said the order "is in violation of the

(U.S.) Constitutional guarantee of free speech and indirectly violates the constitutional right of freedom of the press."

The eleven-page brief claims Alarcon's "order assumes any comment must be prejudicial."

"A court must have real and substantial reasons to justify any abridgement of Constitutional guarantees," the brief adds.

Another challenge brought forth by Younger is that this order is violative of sound public policy because it keeps from the public theories the public has a right to know.

The motion quotes the State Constitution: "Every citizen may freely speak, write, and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for those rights."

In a four-page brief already filed with Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer, who will hear the motion, defense attorney Russell B. Parsons unequivocally opposes any modification or revocation of the June 7 order.

Parsons states: "The defendant is about to enter a plea."

"This is the third killing of a prominent person in recent

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cc to Parsons
8/5/68

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times in the United States,
Namely:

"A President of the United States.

"His brother (Robert F. Kennedy), a U. S. Senator while seeking to be elected president of the U. S." Parsons underscored the words "his brother."

The third person mentioned is "Mr. Martin Luther King, a controversial man and receiver of the peace medal or prize."

Parsons points to unusual precautions to protect the defendant and quotes a member of Younger's staff as saying "that in this (Sirhan) case we will seek the death penalty," and he contends "this alone could prejudice the case."

In lieu of accepting Parsons' objections and in place of full revocation of the order, Younger has offered an alternative. In a three-page proposal Younger seeks to have the court order read:

"There is presently existing a broad, inclusive order of this court directed toward all parties remotely connected with this case and directing said parties to refrain from making any statements relevant to this case with minor enumerated exceptions.

"There is in this order no statement of foundational fact necessitating the order, other than the conclusion that any publicity may result in prejudice to the right of a fair trial."

"After the issuance of the order on June 7, a review of the publicity attending this case failed to demonstrate a necessity for such an order."

"In the alternative, the district attorney respectfully requests that the court consider a modification of the existing order by removing impartial, improperly designated persons and further limiting the categories of prohibited statements."

Younger's proposed order will be taken under consideration by Superior Court Judge Schauer.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Kennedy Son, 13, Saw TV Report on Slaying

NEW YORK (UPI)—Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's 13-year-old son, David, watching television alone in a hotel room, saw the on-the-spot television report on his father's assassination, a psychiatrist reported Wednesday.

Dr. Gerald Caplan, writing for McCall's magazine, said David was the only one of the 10 Kennedy children who was watching television when the senator was shot.

Writer Theodore White found the boy "awake before the television screen, devastated at the sight he had just seen," Caplan said.

"White did not arrive in time to prevent David from learning the news in the worst possible way, but he was able immediately to cushion the blow," the psychiatrist said. "He did this in a most effective way—not by discussing it verbally, but by playing the part of the loving, nurturing strong man."

"In the Kennedy family culture, the father is expected not only to be tough, steadfast and persevering in adversity, but to provide emotional supplies to those who are dependent on him."

"White, in line with this tradition and his own feelings, held David in his arms and gave him bodily comfort and ordered hot chocolate. He stayed with the boy and shared his desolation."

David was one of six Kennedy children who accompanied their parents to Los Angeles for the California primary. They were staying in a suite of rooms at the Ambassador Hotel, where Kennedy was killed.

The children were believed to be asleep when Kennedy was shot, Caplan said, but "friends went to make a check" and White found David.

The other children in the hotel were "watched until they awoke" by former astronaut John Glenn and Mrs. Dean Markham, a friend of Mrs. Kennedy, who told them the news. The older children, in Eastern prep schools, were wakened by staff members and told about their father's shooting.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

III-10 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Editor:
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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

① Richards
② Nolan

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Guns, Leaders, Suspects

The Irony of Our Age

BY ART SEIDENBAUM

The dreadful irony of the present condition of the United States:

Our presidential candidates are clambering around the country exposing themselves and their ideas, trying to outrun their Secret Service escorts, touching strangers and being touched.

Our two most important prisoners are receiving a kind of protection that is unprecedented in this society. And this protection is not against their escape, but against their fellowmen.

Of course there is an 18th century case against strict gun control in a free society.

But because there is not much trust in modern society, what we do is build a veritable fortress around Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

The accused killer of Sen. Robert Kennedy waited while a court was built around him, the most impregnable place in Los Angeles.

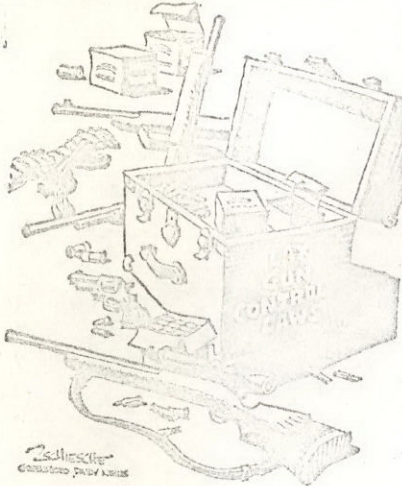
We are not going to permit any Dallas-like catastrophe here and so the most effective thing to do is lock justice in a safe, protecting the people's case from people.

And while the great legislatures of this country and this state were gradually giving up, refusing to vote

for the registration of firearms this season, James Earl Ray was in the process of coming back to Memphis for trial.

Think about the extraordinary precautions of the prosecution in his case, against the simultaneous impotence of the legislators.

The tactics in the protective custody of James Earl Ray add up to a minor military operation. The



American Roulette

Cartoon by Zschiesche

prisoner rode in a 13,000-pound armored car, escorted by patrol cars which were, in turn, guarded by a cadre of motorcycle units.

To transfer Ray from his rolling tank to the Shelby County Jail, a platoon of police with machine guns and shotguns set up a defense line. Ray himself was outfitted in a bulletproof apron and armored trousers.

His cell has steel plates welded over the windows and a closed-circuit television system is installed so that Ray's security may be continuously monitored. The man who allegedly gunned down Dr. Martin Luther King from the communal bathroom of a rundown rooming house now lives in air-conditioned isolation.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-5 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif

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Editor: Nick B. Williams
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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

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8/16/68*

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Yes, it's essential that Sirhan and Ray receive maximum custodial care. And I have no fight with Sheriff Pete Pitchess becoming an architectural consultant or the FBI turning into interior designers to assure the prisoners' safety.

But it does seem a little ludicrous, doesn't it, when the man who will be the next President of this country is out and among the same public both supposed assassins are being protected from?

Since it is also essential that a leader of a free society be able to move freely through it, shouldn't we begin to offer increased protection by insisting that the legislators toss the lobbies off their backs and start disarming the populace?

You've done that you say? The people have petitioned and they've been polled and a healthy majority wants guns registered, gun users licensed.

But the pressure wasn't enough, was it? Not so oddly, the pressures from the other side already had the drop on the politicians.

We're going to have to apply some more, between now and November. Even if the gun control question is not on the ballot, the next Congress is. If you care about the grim irony, then make it your business to know whether your representatives fought or failed you. And vote accordingly.

Otherwise we'll have a continuation of the present phantasmagoria, in which the most protected men are those who gun down leaders. And the most vulnerable men are those who would lead.

Isn't that a symptom of a sick society?

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Postponement of Sirhan Trial Urged by Hahn

Emotional Feeling During Presidential Campaign Cited in Request for Delay

Postponement of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's murder trial from Nov. 1 until after the Nov. 5 presidential election was urged Wednesday by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Hahn, chairman of the Board of Supervisors' Courts Committee, wrote to Superior Judge Richard Schauer, who presides over criminal departments of the Superior Court.

Pointing out that Sirhan is accused of slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, who was a presidential candidate, Hahn said:

"Every thoughtful person understands that there is tremendous emotional feeling during a presidential election. I believe it would be in the best interest of justice if the trial of Sirhan Sirhan

be continued after Nov. 5."

Judge Schauer, on vacation, was unavailable for comment.

He is expected to announce Oct. 4 which judge will preside at Sirhan's trial.

Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger, who received a copy of Hahn's letter, said the prosecution is ready to proceed on the trial date of Nov. 1, but would agree to any legitimate request by defense counsel Russell E. Parsons for a continuance.

Since the prosecution will ask for the death penalty, Younger said selection of a jury will probably not be completed until after Nov. 5 and the presidential election should have no impact on the jurors.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**II-8 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.**

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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 22 1968	
FBI — LOS ANGELES	

Do Richards

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Alone in a Room, Young Kennedy Saw Father Shot on TV

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"White, in line with this tradi-

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1 AUG 22 1968	
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bill Restricting Use of Kennedy Autopsy Photographs Killed

BY TOM GOFF

Times Sacramento Bureau Chief

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Reagan said Tuesday he has vetoed a bill passed by the 1968 Legislature which would have made it difficult to exploit for commercial and other purposes photographs taken of the body of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The measure, coauthored by Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh (D-Inglewood), would have required persons wanting to make use of official autopsy pictures to obtain a court order.

Under present law, copies of such pictures may be obtained by anyone willing to pay the price of reproducing them.

The restriction had been requested by Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger of Los Angeles County, who feared there would be a wide demand for Kennedy photos by exploiters and the morbidly curious.

Many of 300 autopsy pictures of the late senator, taken by the Los Angeles county coroner's office, will be used as evidence in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, Kennedy's accused assassin, Younger said.

Additional Provision in Bill

The vetoed bill would also have prohibited the use in California of wire-tapped evidence legally obtained in some other state but which would have been illegal had it been obtained in this state.

Reagan said he vetoed the bill because it "is so broadly worded that, it would have the unintended effect, of impeding the legitimate use of autopsy photographs in medical education and research."

He said medical researchers and forensic pathologists had complained that the bill would have had a detrimental effect on scientific advancement.

"I have no quarrel with the principal objective," the governor said.

The veto was one of several announced by Reagan on Tuesday.

He said he also has refused to sign a bill which would have provided for a special high-benefit retirement system for 600 employees of the State Legislature.

"The program would not be funded on an actuarially sound basis," he said.

Costs, estimated at \$1.8 million a year initially, would "increase dramatically as the state's share of liability under the program grew from year to year," the governor said.

Other Vetoes Listed

The plan, rushed through in the closing days of the legislative session, would have cost legislative employees less than the general state retirement system and given them benefits up to three times as great.

Other vetoes included:

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Editor: Nick B. Williams
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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

*Referred to
SAC on 9/4/68
J. [signature]*

Q. [signature]

—Speaker Unruh's \$1.1 million summer jobs program for youths. Reagan said the state already has a highly successful summer jobs program, and the Unruh measure "only adds to the frustrations of minority unemployment" by providing make work type jobs.

—A bill by Sen. Randolph Collier (D-Yreka) which would have permitted convicted drunk drivers to choose between jail sentences and suspension of drivers licenses.

Such discretion said Reagan, should rest with judges and not offenders.

—A proposal by Sen. George Moscone (D-San Francisco) which would have deleted boards of police commissioners, city and town marshals from the list of persons authorized to issue licenses that carry concealed firearms.

More Study Needed

He said the entire field needs further legislative study.

—A measure Reagan said would give preferential tax treatment by eliminating from sales and use tax the sale or lease of equipment and personal property to be used in offshore oil explorations. It was sponsored by Assemblyman John G. Vehe-man (R-Modesto).

—A bill which would have authorized \$1.2 million for a two-year experimental program of year-round operation at a poor city high school in Oakland where youngsters find it difficult to get summer jobs. The sponsor was March K. Fong (D-Oakland).

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Reveals 'Tell All' Offer

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1
Star-News
Pasadena, Calif.

Sirhan Wants TV Coverage To 'Tell All'

NEW YORK (AP) — Ramparts magazine says relatives of Sirhan Sirhan say he told them he would explain why he shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy only if television coverage of his trial is permitted.

The Ramparts article was written by Mahmoud Abdel-Hadi, an Egyptian correspondent for Akbbar Elyoum in Cairo, who interviewed Sirhan's family.

Abdel-Hadi says Sirhan "has confided to his family that he will never make any statement unless special provisions are made for the courtroom proceedings. What Sirhan wants is, quite simply, publicity.

"He wants the major television networks to be allowed to broadcast the entire trial. If they do this, he says, he will tell all.

"And if they refuse?" his brother Adel recently asked him. 'Then I shall go to the gas chamber—silent,' Sirhan replied."

Sirhan is awaiting trial in Los Angeles on charges of killing Kennedy.

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FBI — LOS ANGELES	
A.O. RICHARDS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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BY TOM GOFF

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Under present law, copies of such pictures may be obtained by anyone willing to pay the price of reproducing them.

The restriction had been requested by Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger of Los Angeles County, who feared there would be a wide demand for Kennedy photos by exploiters and the morbidly curious.

Many of 300 autopsy pictures of the late senator, taken by the Los Angeles county coroner's office, will be used as evidence in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, Kennedy's accused assassin, Younger said.

Additional Provision in Bill

The vetoed bill would also have prohibited the use in California of wire-tapped evidence legally obtained in some other state but which would have been illegal had it been obtained in this state.

Reagan said he vetoed the bill because it "is so broadly worded that it would have the unintended effect of impeding the legitimate use of autopsy photographs in medical education and research."

He said medical researchers and forensic pathologists had complained that the bill would have had a detrimental effect on scientific advancement.

"I have no quarrel with the principal objective," the governor said.

The veto was one of several announced by Reagan on Tuesday.

He said he also has refused to sign a bill which would have provided for a special high-benefit retirement system for 600 employees of the State Legislature.

"The program would not be funded on an actuarially sound basis," he said.

Costs, estimated at \$1.8 million a year initially, would "increase dramatically as the state's share of liability under the program grew from year to year," the governor said.

Other Vetoes Listed

The plan, rushed through in the closing days of the legislative session, would have cost legislative employees less than the general state retirement system and given them benefits up to three times as great.

Other vetoes included:

—Speaker Unruh's \$1.5 million summer jobs program for youths. Reagan said the state already has a highly successful summer jobs program, and the

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 9/4/68
Edition: Home
Author: Tom Goff
Editor: Nick B. Williams
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Unruh measure "only adds to the frustrations of minority unemployment" by providing make work type jobs.

—A bill by Sen. Randolph Collier (D-Yreka) which would have permitted convicted drunk drivers to choose between jail sentences and suspension of drivers licenses.

Such discretion said Reagan, should rest with judges and not offenders.

—A proposal by Sen. George Moscone (D-San Francisco) which would have deleted boards of police commissioners, city and town marshals from the list of persons authorized to issue licenses that carry concealed firearms.

More Study Needed

He said the entire field needs further legislative study.

—A measure Reagan said would give preferential tax treatment by eliminating from sales and use tax the sale or lease of equipment and personal property to be used in offshore oil explorations. It was sponsored by Assemblyman John G. Vene-man (R-Modesto).

—A bill which would have authorized \$1.2 million for a two-year experimental program of year-round operation at a poor city high school in Oakland where youngsters find it difficult to get summer jobs. The sponsor was March K. Fong (D-Oakland).

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Part III, pg. 1
 Los Angeles Times
 Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 9/7/68

Edition: Daily

Author: NA

Editor:

Title: SIRHAN'S JAIL CEL

Character:

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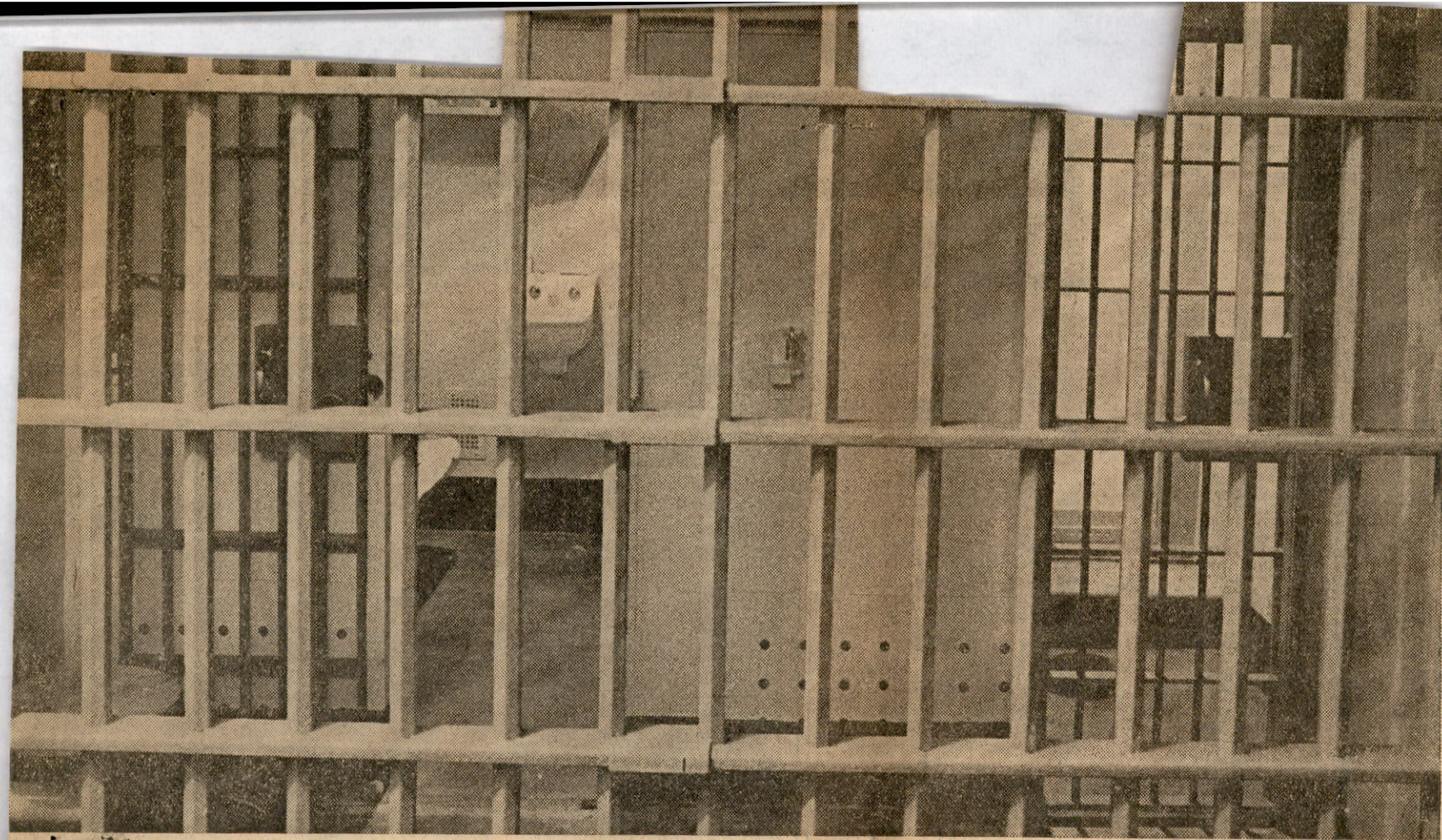
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SEP 9 1968

FBI - LOS ANGELES



SIRHAN'S JAIL CELL—The security facilities used to house Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, are shown in a photo released by Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess. Sirhan's living quarters,

left under numeral 2, include a cot, wash basin and mirror. At right, under numeral 1, are the cell's sanitary facilities. In the foreground is a closed corridor in which Sirhan is allowed to exercise daily.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Younger Appeals Order on Sirhan

District Attorney Evelle J. Younger has filed an appeal requesting the court order limiting publicity in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case be modified.

Sirhan is the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. A court order was issued by Superior Court Judge Arthur A. Alarcon June 7 restricting all persons involved in the case, including police and district attorney's investigators, from making statements concerning Sirhan or evidence against him.

On Aug. 2, Younger requested the Superior Court to modify the existing order and make it more lenient.

At that time Younger said he sought the modifications "to allow investigators to repudiate people claiming to be witnesses who are in fact merely seeking publicity." The court order forbids this being done.

Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer denied Younger's motion.

Younger's latest appeal, which will be heard by the California State Court of Appeal, again asks that the order be modified.

"Never before in the history of American judicial relations with the public has the voice of

responsible law enforcement been more muted than in this case," Younger said.

In the lengthy legal writ seeking the modifications, Younger says he has information, "he believes the public is entitled to know and which does not interfere with the constitutional right of a defendant to a fair trial."

Younger, a former Superior Court Judge, will go before the Appeals Court himself to argue for the modifications.

Sirhan is scheduled to return to court Oct. 4 when Judge Schauer is expected to name the Superior Court Judge who will try the case. His trial is sched-

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A-6 Herald-Examiner
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Geor. [signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Kennedy Photo Bill Revision Gets Approval

Exclusive to The Times from
a Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — The Assembly voted 72 to 0 Friday to pass a revised bill designed to prohibit commercial exploitation of autopsy pictures taken of the body of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The action was taken immediately after Gov. Reagan agreed to open the special legislative session to reconsideration of the subject.

Reagan had vetoed a bill passed in the general session designed to do the same thing on grounds that it would have re-

stricted educational and scientific use of all autopsy pictures.

The new measure was introduced by Assemblyman Frederick Bear (D-San Diego) and Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh (D-Inglewood).

The bill requires a court order to obtain copies of the pictures taken of bodies during autopsies except when they are to be used for educational and scientific purposes.

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*cc to [unclear]
9/16/68*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Student Tells Theft Of RFK Death Film

About 800 feet of film covering the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has been reported stolen from the college locker of a 24-year-old Venice graduate student at UCLA.

Alvin Tokunow, of 8 Horizon Ave., said the film was apparently stolen from his locker early in August. The thief apparently picked the simple padlock and then re-locked it.

No other items in the locker were disturbed.

Though Tokunow has two copies of the original negative which was stolen, their quality is fuzzy and generally inferior. It was originally to have been part of a 20,000-foot movie thesis covering the Democratic nominating process.

The motion picture major said a man resembling accused assassin Sirhan Bishara Sirhan appeared to be talking with another dark man and a woman nearby. The figure was seen in movies shot at the assassination June 5 and at a rally June 2.

Because of a court order prohibiting comment on all matters pertaining to the assassination, investigating police were silent about the incident.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

7 Evening Outlook
Santa Monica, Calif.

Date: 9/9/68

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Author:

Editor: Robert McClure

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Relief From Press Ban in Sirhan Trial Sought by Younger

Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger sought relief Tuesday from a sweeping court order which he said bars him from disclosing to the public pertinent information in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan case.

The information, according to Younger, would not interfere with Sirhan's right to a fair trial on charges of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and feloniously assaulting five other persons.

The district attorney sought reversal of the order in a petition for a writ of mandate and prohibition from the State Court of Appeal.

"Never before in the history of American judicial relations with the public has the voice of responsible law enforcement been more effectively muted than in this case," Younger said.

First Ordered June 7

He charged that the court "acted illegally and in excess of its jurisdiction" in making the order because, he said, the order "in its entirety violates the laws and constitutions of both California and the United States."

The restrictions on publicity first were ordered by Superior Judge Arthur Alarcon on June 7, the date of Sirhan's indictment.

Superior Judge Richard Schauer later, after some minor alterations, denied Younger's motion to substantially modify or vacate the order.

Younger said his information includes facts pertinent to what he called "unfounded rumors relating to the claimed existence of witnesses or evidence purportedly affecting the prosecution" of Sirhan, but which, he added, would not affect such prosecution.

Judge Alarcon's order, Younger said, also "has substantially ham-

pered (his office) in making any disclosure whatsoever relating to the investigation and prosecution."

The order prohibits any attorney connected with the case, court attache, public official, grand juror or law enforcement officer from publicly disseminating any information concerning the investigation and prosecution of Sirhan.

The same restriction also applies to all witnesses who testified before the Los Angeles County Grand Jury and to any persons subpoenaed to testify at the trial.

Sirhan, who has pleaded not guilty, is scheduled to face trial Nov. 1. His next appearance in court will be Oct. 4 when the jurist who will preside over the trial is to be named by Judge Schauer.

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Los Angeles, Calif.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bill Restricting Autopsy Photos Goes to Reagan

SACRAMENTO (UPI)—The Legislature Tuesday sent Gov. Reagan a measure preventing exploitation of autopsy photographs taken of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The Senate voted 32-0 to approve the bill by Assemblyman F. James Bear (D-San Diego). The Assembly, which had approved the bill earlier, concurred minutes later in a minor Senate amendment.

The bill restricts use of autopsy photographs to legal and scientific research purposes.

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W.J. Nolan

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newspaper, city and state.)
LOS ANGELES
FREE PRESS
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 7-26-68
Edition: --
Author: Ted Zatlyn
Editor: --
Title: SIRHAN BLAVATSKY
CAPOTE

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ADP

SIRHAN BLAVATSKY CAPOTE

TED ZATLYN

Robert Kennedy was dead, Truman Capote was sure of it. His instincts never lied to him before.

Sirhan Sirhan, accused assassin, sweet, innocent face, young. A killer. He was sure of that too.

Was he acting alone? Were ANY of them acting alone—Oswald, Ruby, Ray, Guiteau—Booth; or did some sinister brain program and control them through hypnotic forces from outer Manchuria?

Who or what controlled Sirhan? When, why, how? For days after the assassination the reporter in him thought about all the Sirhans everywhere. And there were bound to be more.

The noted criminologist and Guest Judge Capote studied the question with his quick mind on NBC's "Tonight" show. He told the vast audience that "This young man named Sirhan Sirhan says that he shot Robert Kennedy."

However, THAT was news. Nobody ever heard Sirhan say that. Perhaps Capote was wrong. It didn't matter, Sirhan's brain was washed anyway, and he, Capote, knew the name of the brain that washed it—a woman. Some called her Helena Petrovna Blavatsky; others (Did Capote know what others?) called her illuminated—God.

Madame Blavatsky died in 1891, proving, if the latter were correct, that God is not only dead, but She is Russian as well.

Author Capote chose the political rather than the metaphysical approach to the riddle of why Madame Blavatsky had invaded the boyish oblivion of Sirhan's skull.

Sketching an impromptu scenario with his famous reportorial skills and "total recall" abilities, the playwright alleged, "that among the theories that Madame Blavatsky evolved was the theory of how you could undermine the morale of a country and create a vacuum for revolution by systematically assassinating a series of prominent people—almost without rhyme or reason about it, just creating a general terror."

Was the audience stunned by Capote's startling revelation? Had they heard it before?

The Theosophist Society was stunned. Also, they had heard the charge before—or more precisely, had seen it. The John Birch Society said the same thing almost verbatim, in a full page newspaper ad. The Theosophists, whose society was founded by Madame Blavatsky, were terribly impressed by Capote's total recall. In fact, they could hardly believe their ears, or "Tonight" or NBC. Mahatma Gandhi, speaking of this wonderful woman, H.P.B., confessed himself unfit to touch the hem of her garments.

The editors of Time Magazine were also impressed—with Capote; never heard of Blavatsky, Theosophists, Gandhi? On June 21st they leaped into print with an exciting re-run for all those who might have missed the show. Not to anyone's surprise, author Capote distinguished himself as much in print as he had done on TV.

About this woman who foments revolution, Manly P. Hall writes:

"That Madame Blavatsky had in some unaccountable way contracted the occult soul of Asia cannot be doubted. She was in every sense an Oriental occultist, a faithful disciple of Eastern Masters. Her peculiar personal qualifications were recognized by those illumined Adepts

whose task it is to perpetuate the esoteric philosophy and at the same time guard its sacred truths from the profane. No other non-Hindu woman has ever penetrated so far into the adytum of Brahmanism. Concerning Madame Blavatsky's achievements in

**'God is not only
dead, but she is
Russian as well'**

the Devachanic (godlike) state. He and his 'partner' will meet in avitchi (hell), if not a still more disreputable place" (collected writings, 1883, p 287).

Or he could study her history, her unique search for sec-

ing at the border—all the "givens." In fact Welch's early evangelical anticommunism thrived on irrationality—on the secret truth that while everybody thought the Bircher was crazy, down deep in his heart he knew that (1) "documentation was on the way," and (2) even if the documentation could be disproved, THAT was evidence of a communist plot. The word communism is synonymous with evil, and Welch's periodic anti-communist manifestos were gospel.

Birchers that attack Madam Blavatsky, though smaller in number, and as crazy as ever, find a new home in an atmosphere of suspicion and violence. Truman Capote takes them seriously, NBC, Time Magazine find nothing strange in speaking their new language.

The John Birch Society has ceased to be merely a social and political group. Welch discovered where his crusade to save America, the last tottering bastion against Bolshevism, was leading: To a new theology concentrated in a single word; to grips with the one and only essential "evil" in the world. He's been tricked into thinking it was merely Communism. Welch discovered THE ILLUMINATI.

Does Mr. Capote know that the Illuminati (according to sacred Birch Doctrine) began in the Garden of Eden when Eve made it with the snake and gave birth to Cain? That all the descendants of snake-man Cain belong to a super-secret group known as the Illuminati, dedicated to absolutely nothing but the meanest low down evil imagined in the Satanic mind of man?

Anti-Illuminati John Steinbacher, writes in his unpublished book *Novus Ordo Seclorum* (The New Order of the Ages): "Today, in America, many otherwise talented people are flirting with disaster by association with those same evil forces, not knowing that they are expendable. Communism is but one head of that beast that goes by many names, though it is doubtful if many Party members realize that they too are but pawns in the game."

The Illuminati have roots all over the world. Their evil goal is to transcend materiality, and to bring about one world, denying the sovereignty of nations and the sanctity of private property.

If the author of "In Cold Blood" seeks material for a new book—on Sirhan and the woman who induces him to murder, he will discover the origin of his own suspicions:

"Madame Blavatsky's doctrine was startlingly similar to that of Weishaupt (another arch villain of Illuminati), in that she stated that her ideas were transmitted throughout the world, and in constant touch with one another."

Was H.P.B. a revolutionary? The Anti-Illuminati thinks so. "She also claimed that the bodies of the 'enlightened' would become 'ductile instruments of intelligence', and this would enable the enlightened to gain control over natural forces and perform actual miracles, just as the anti-Christ of scripture, in the latter day, is said to be able to heal mortal wounds and raise the dead."

Is H.P.B. the kind of subversive that brings down empires? Only a genius of Capote's calibre could do the Sirhan-Oswald-Ray-book—if for no other reason than to get inside their heads and find Helena Petrovna Blavatsky.



HELENA PETROVNA BLAVATSKY
1831-1891

Oriental learning, Rai B.K. Laheri wrote: "Is it not sufficient for the Westerners to know that a proud Brahman, who knows not how to bend his body before any mortal being in this world, except his superiors in relation or religion, joins his hands like a submissive child before the white Yogim of the West?"

The Theosophists read Time, watched the memory of H.P.B. shot down in cold blood.

"The killers," said Time, "...might all be cogs in a single stupendous murder machine... might all have been intensively trained, brainwashed trigger men... Their purpose would be to drive the US to its knees by assassinating public persons—a theory, Capote claims, that was once exalted by 19th century Theosophist Helena Blavatsky."

Kennedy dead, Sirhan's enigma grows, the longer in jail, the wider his brown eyes. Perhaps Capote the artist was turned on by a simple news clipping surreal, Sirhan requested books by Madame Blavatsky to read in jail: "The Secret Doctrine," Talks at the Feet of the Master, by C.W. Ledbetter. Strange.

How could Capote turn these events into a book?

Perhaps he might start by reading H.P.B. (to get to the core of the evil which controls men's minds). On Assassinations she wrote (1883): "It is to be feared that Guiteau (assassin of President Garfield) will have little chance of getting acquainted with

ret knowledge, the oriental mystics known to have guided her life, her prophetic powers, her soul's overflow in gifts of books.

Or he might go to the source of the "theory" of the stupendous murder machine: The John Birch Society. He could fill his days patiently reading the tracts of lies that finally form the true inner core of fear.

This dwindling little "Society" condemns Madame Blavatsky, Theosophists, Communists, Peace Groups, transcendentalists, —they condemn even Christ—Truman should ask himself why?

Whatever happened to the John Birch Society? Why do even hardcore rightwingers cringe at Founder Welch's charge that H.P.B. wrote "The Manual for Revolution" when it was written by an anarchist and assassin named Nechayev, and the "godfather of the Nihilists"—Aleksandrovich Bakunin? Why do only the most rabid and fanatical abide by the new satanic doctrine Welch and his followers have created?

The old, funny Birchers used to spend their time convincing their neighbors that Dwight Eisenhower was a traitor, or that Chinese Communists were mass-



SIRHAN SIRHAN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

VETERAN OF CRIMINAL COURT**Judge Walker to Preside
Over Sirhan Trial****BY RON EINSTOSS**

Times Staff Writer

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, known as the dean of the county's criminal court bench, has been assigned to conduct the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, it was announced Thursday.

The appointment of the longtime public servant, lay church leader and veteran jurist was made by Superior Judge Richard Schauer, who presides over the criminal departments of the Superior Court.

Judge Walker has the reputation of being firm, but fair.

He is the senior member of the criminal panel here and ranks seventh in seniority among Los Angeles County's 134 Superior Court judges.

Now 69, he is scheduled to retire next July 31.

Judge Walker was appointed to the Superior Court in 1953 by then-Gov. Earl Warren after a lengthy career devoted to public service.

The assignment of Judge Walker



Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker

to the Sirhan trial, now scheduled for Nov. 1, was not altogether unexpected.

Both Judge Schauer and Superior

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1 SEP 20 1968

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Judge Donald R. Wright, who presides over all departments of the court, said earlier that the jurist selected to hear the Sirhan case would be one with wide experience in the criminal courts.

No judge here has tried more criminal cases than the stocky, bushy-browed Judge Walker.

He once was considered to be a tough judge and received more than his share of challenges from criminal defense attorneys.

But in 1964 the Criminal Courts Bar Assn. paid special tribute to him. That organization, composed primarily of those same defense lawyers, presented an award to him which read:

"As the dean of the criminal bench and an outstanding lay leader of the Episcopal Church he has served this community with distinction and honor . . .

"His standards of fairness and justice have been in the highest traditions of judicial responsibility."

Judge Walker is married and the father of three children. His son, Herbert W. Walker, practices law in Santa Ana.

Born in San Francisco, he was graduated in 1928 from the University of Southern California law school.

For the next 15 years he served as a deputy state corporation commissioner and in 1943 he was appointed by then-Dist. Atty. Fred N. Howser to serve as assistant and later as chief deputy district attorney.

From 1948 to 1953 (when he was appointed to the bench) Judge Walker was chairman of the hearing board of the Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District.

Since 1955 he has been assigned to the criminal panel. In 1956, he presided over all those departments of the court which hear criminal cases.

He has conducted many well-publicized cases, including the Confidential magazine trial. He sen-

tenced Caryl Chessman to death.

In 1967, Judge Walker granted a controversial special hearing to the American Civil Liberties Union which contended that the death penalty constitutes cruel and unusual punishment and violates a person's fundamental right to life.

After a 12-day hearing, during which many experts in the field of crime and its punishment testified both pro and con on the matter, Judge Walker held that the death penalty is not unconstitutional.

Lauded by ACLU

Even though the judge ruled against him, one of the ACLU attorneys, Gerald Gottlieb, said of Judge Walker:

"(His) labors (in hearing the case) will constitute a lasting contribution to American law."

During World War I, he served in the Navy and in World War II he was a Selective Service Board member.

Judge Walker lives in Glendale at 3072 Menlo Drive, with his wife, Alice.

Judge Walker said he expects that his clerk, Alice Nishikawa, and bailiff, Wilbur Polhemus, will be assigned to the case with him.

At the same time that he announced the assignment of Judge Walker to the case, Judge Schauer said the jury trial of Sirhan will be held in Department 107 on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice.

Sirhan's next appearance in court is scheduled for Oct. 4. As was the case the last two times Sirhan appeared in court, the proceeding will be held on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice in a special courtroom.

The appearance had been scheduled for the purpose of appointing a

judge in announcing a courtroom for the case. It is not now known what will occur on Oct. 4, but that might be a time when either the defense or prosecution could seek a continuance in the case.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judge Walker Set For Sirhan Trial

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, who handled the famous "Confidential Magazine" trial of a decade ago, has been

appointed to try Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused of the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Selection of Walker to preside at the trial of the Jordanian immigrant, scheduled to start Nov. 1, was announced by Presiding Judge Richard Schauer of the Master Calendar Criminal Department of the Superior Court.

Schauer also announced that the trial would take place in the courtroom now designated as Department 107, Room 832, located on the 8th floor of the Hall of Justice.

Sirhan, 24, is being held in a specially protected cell in the Hall of Justice. The building also serves as headquarters for the sheriff's office in the Civic Center.

Selection of the courtroom close to Sirhan's cell will permit

authorities to maintain maximum security for his protection. He will not be required to leave the building in going to and from the courtroom during the trial, which could continue for months.

Sirhan was accused of fatally shooting Kennedy Jan. 5 in the Ambassador Hotel shortly after Kennedy won a victory in California's presidential primary. Sirhan is also charged with wounding five other persons.

Walker, 69, is senior judge of the Criminal Department. He was appointed to the Superior Court in 1953 by former California Gov. Earl Warren, now Chief Justice of the United States.

Prior to his elevation to the bench, Walker served as chief deputy district attorney for Los Angeles County from 1943-46 and practiced law privately from 1946 to 1953. For 15 years he was deputy commissioner of corporations for the state.

With this varied background, as he puts it, "I've sat on all three corners of the triangle and I think I know pretty well what the attorneys down in front are thinking."

The spice and sensationalism of the "Confidential" trial did not alter the rigid dignity of Judge Walker's court. He held spectators, newsmen and all others in the courtroom under stern discipline which permitted no snickering at the racy testimony.

His respect for the awesome judicial power he commands was born years ago, according to the judge, who says he aspired to the bench "since I was in the last year of law school."

Walker attended Los Angeles High School and received his bachelor of law degree from the University of Southern California, in 1928. The following year he was admitted to the bar.

Prior to entering USC in 1922, Walker held a number of jobs to help finance his college and law school education. He worked in the oil fields in Casmalia, Calif., and also at the Brea Oil Fields in Los Angeles. He was employed by the Los Angeles City surveyor, holding the position of chain man on the surveying crew.

In 1917, the future Judge Walker enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served aboard the USS Kentucky in the Atlantic. He was honorably discharged in October, 1919.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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1 SEP 23 1968
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Lifting of Sirhan News Ban Refused by Appeals Court

The State Court of Appeal Wednesday denied Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger's petition to block enforcement of a news blackout on the pending trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

On June 7—the day Sirhan was charged with the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy — Superior Judge Arthur L. Alarcon issued an order prohibiting authorities and possible witnesses from releasing any information about the case.

Dist. Atty. Younger petitioned the Court of Appeal Sept. 10 for a writ prohibiting Judge Alarcon from enforcing his June 7 order.

Attorney Joseph A. Ball, acting as legal counsel for Superior Court, responded Wednesday by opposing any relief from Alarcon's order. The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the Sam Sheppard case applies in the Sirhan Case, he said.

Referred to Sheppard Case

He referred to the case of Dr. Sam Sheppard, Cleveland osteopath who was convicted of the 1954 bludgeon slaying of his first wife, Marilyn, and spent nine years in prison before the high court ordered a new trial which ended in his 1966 acquittal.

The Supreme Court held that Sheppard's original trial had been prejudiced by publicity based on evidence which was not later brought before the jury.

Without comment, the District Court of Appeal denied Younger's request. The appellate court held no hearing on the matter. After its action, Russell E. Parsons, Sirhan's attorney, also filed a reply to the Younger petition. It, too, opposed modification of the June 7 order.

Younger's office indicated the district attorney might ask for a hearing on the matter before the State Supreme Court.

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SEP 26 1968
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ACK. Chubb 10/1/68

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Board of Supervisors authorized Thomas T. Noguchi, the county's coroner and chief medical examiner, to go to Washington next week to discuss his findings in the autopsy of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy with the staff of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. The supervisors also authorized a sheriff's deputy to accompany Dr. Noguchi to protect records dealing with the June 5 shooting of Kennedy at the Ambassador. Sirhan B. Sirhan, 24, is to face trial Nov. 1 on charges of murdering Kennedy.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**I-2 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.**

Date: **10/2/68**
Edition: **Home**
Author:
Editor: **Nick B. Williams**
Title: **KENSALT**

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Sirhan News Gag Review Asked

A review of the judicial news gag clamped on the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, has been asked of the state supreme court.

Attorney Joseph A. Ball, representing the Los Angeles County Superior Court, forwarded the review to the high tribunal in San Francisco yesterday in a move to bypass such a hearing in the State Court of Appeal because of the proximity of Sirhan's trial, set for Nov. 1.

Ball represents the superior court because two superior judges are responsible for issuing and sustaining the order which prohibits extrajudicial comments by principals in the cases and by public officials for public dissemination.

The order was issued by Superior Judge Arthur L. Alarcon last June 7—two days after Kennedy was shot to death in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles—and subsequently was sustained by Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger last Sept. 10 petitioned the State Court of Appeal to modify or lift the order on ground it violates freedom of speech and press.

Ball Tuesday filed an answer to Younger's petition to the appellate court. Yesterday, the appellate court received a copy of Ball's request to have the matter transferred directly to the State Supreme Court.

Ball claimed modification or revocation of the lower court's order on publicity in the case could result in Sirhan's inability to receive a fair trial because of prejudicial publicity. He also said the order did not restrict freedom of the press, but only prevented the news media from obtaining information from official sources.

The appellate court yesterday denied without comment Younger's petition for a writ or mandate or prohibition. He said he would seek a hearing before the State Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, Sirhan's attorney, Russell Parsons, filed with Superior Court, motions for discovery of evidence and a motion to suppress evidence.

Parsons claimed, in seeking suppression, that certain unspecified evidence was seized at Sirhan's home in Pasadena by authorities who lacked a search or arrest warrant and who did not obtain Sirhan's permission.

In his discovery motion, Parsons sought almost everything in the line of evidence the prosecution might possess, including statements from witnesses, reports from doctors, observations from officers who have or had custody of Sirhan, photographs, movies and transcriptions.

Parsons also asked the court to direct witnesses in the case to make statements to his investigators. He claimed witnesses had told him investigators authorities had told them not to talk to anyone.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Los Angeles, Calif

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Editor: Donald Goodenow
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*cc to Ben
9/27/68*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Trial of Sirhan Expected to Be Put Off Till 1969

**Defense May Ask New
Date in Jordanian's 6th
Court Appearance Friday**

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan's trial on murder charges in the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, now scheduled to begin Nov. 1, is expected to be continued until a later date, probably after the first of the year.

A new trial date may be sought by the defense Friday when the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant makes his sixth appearance in court.

The reasons such a postponement seems likely are twofold:

1—The attorney who is expected to assist Russell E. Parsons in defending Sirhan still is unavailable because of other commitments.

2—There is a possibility that the jury will be sequestered throughout the entire trial which would cause jurors to be locked up during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays if the case begins as now scheduled.

May Last Two Months

Present estimates are that the trial will last about two months.

When Sirhan appears in court Friday, it again will be before Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

The date originally had been set for the naming of a judge to try the case and a courtroom.

Those selections already have been announced, reportedly so work could begin on trial arrangements and problems of security.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker was assigned to the case and the trial was set in Department 107 on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice.

That courtroom reportedly will not be used in the case until the actual trial begins.

Hearings on pretrial motions will continue to be heard on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice in a special room near Sirhan's heavily guarded cell.

Last week Parsons made motions to suppress certain evidence and he given all statements and reports now in the hands of the police and prosecutors.

Expected to Set Date

Judge Schauer on Friday is expected to set a hearing date on these matters before Judge Walker.

The evidence Parsons is seeking to suppress basically consists of items belonging to Sirhan which were taken by police from his mother's home in Pasadena.

These reportedly include several diary-type notebooks containing personal writings of Sirhan.

One of the notations is said to be that "Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5, 1968." The three bullets which felled the Democratic presidential aspirant were fired 16 minutes after midnight on June 5. Sen. Kennedy died 25 hours later.

Sirhan also is accused of feloniously assaulting, with intent to commit murder, five other persons who were attending the election night victory celebration at the Ambassador.

The book and movie rights to Sirhan's memoirs have been sold to Robert Blair Kaiser, a California author and former news magazine correspondent in Europe.

A sizable part of the royalties reportedly will be paid to Sirhan's lawyers.

Kaiser, it is understood, has been granted exclusive rights to interview Sirhan in his jail cell.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Los Angeles, Calif

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Editor: Nick B. Williams
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ISOLATION BOOTH USED BEFORE**Security Efforts Taken for Sirhan Trial Aren't Unique****BY ROBERT RAWITCH**

Times Staff Writer

The windows are armor-plated, every person entering the courtroom is searched, and eventually a bullet-proof glass barrier may separate the defendant, judge and jury from the spectators.

Such is the now familiar description of the security precautions surrounding the pretrial proceedings of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. It remains unparalleled in Los Angeles County judicial history.

However, long-time observers in the Hall of Justice, where Sirhan is being held in a cell on the 13th floor, can recall several other cases where security measures received almost as much attention as the defendants themselves.

The case which immediately comes to the minds of most officials is that of James Merkouris, 53, who was convicted in 1956 of murdering his ex-wife and her second husband. He was sentenced to death.

New Trial Ordered

The State Supreme Court overthrew the decision and ordered a new trial after a sanity hearing.

Although quiet and reserved during his first trial, during the sanity hearing Merkouris spewed forth invective at J. Miller Leavy, now director of central operations for the district attorney's office, but then the prosecuting deputy district attorney.

"He was unruly and constantly yelling obscenities so Superior Judge Clement B. Nye finally ordered that he be gagged," Leavy recalls.

Because of his struggling, Merkouris' mouth started to bleed from the leather binding, and when he once lunged and struck Leavy, Judge Nye felt other security precautions were necessary.

"We had an 'isolation booth' built—similar to ones used for quiz shows—where he (Merkouris) could

we didn't have to hear him yell unless we turned the sound on," Leavy said.

The booth was constructed with a shatterproof glass front for \$1,000 and had a telephone so Merkouris could talk with his attorney.

But even the "isolation booth" couldn't make Merkouris, who the prosecution said was feigning insanity, settle down.

When first placed in the booth, he broke up its wooden chair and ripped the telephone out of the wall in an apparent fit of rage.

His hands and feet were strapped to a specially made iron chair which was bolted in the booth and he finally calmed down.

While found by the jury to be insane, he remained at Atascadero State Hospital for only 15 months before being released to stand trial a second time.

Merkouris was again convicted and given the death penalty in his second trial, but his sentence was commuted in 1960 to life imprisonment without possibility of parole by Gov. Edmund G. Brown.

The isolation booth, built by county employees, was later dismantled. However, the welded iron chair has been saved, Miller said, in case it should be needed again.

Other Cases Recalled

Although precautions taken in the Merkouris case probably were the most bizarre, several other cases also have brought about unusual security measures.

In May, 1966, the fatal shooting of Leonard Deadwyler, 25, by a police officer incensed the Negro community to the point that 1,000 persons jammed the coroner's inquest to witness the proceedings.

The hearing examiner was forced to adjourn the inquest after only 30 minutes because the room could not be cleared.

Deadwyler 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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A.O. RICHARDS

by the officer when his car turned forward after being stopped for a traffic violation while speeding to a hospital with his pregnant wife, mistakenly thought to be in labor.

To accommodate the expected crowd on the second day the inquest was moved from the Old Hall of Records to a larger room in the New County Courthouse, but facilities still were inadequate.

On the second day of the televised inquest, the crowd was considerably smaller but every person entering the courtroom was searched after police received reports that many of the spectators might have been armed during the first day's proceedings.

Many Couldn't get In

Still, nearly half of the 300 persons present were not able to get into the small courtroom and 100 helmeted sheriff's deputies were required to control the crowd, which ultimately listened to the testimony by loudspeakers installed on the mall outside.

However, prior to the Sirhan proceedings, probably the case most famous for its security precautions was the 1953 trial of Mrs. Barbara Graham, John A. Santo and Emmett Perkins, for the murder of Mrs. Mabel Monahan, an affluent Burbank widow.

Mrs. Monahan, who was thought to have considerable money in her home, was pistol whipped and strangled by the three.

A former member of the group that murdered the woman, John True, was granted immunity when he agreed to testify against the three defendants.

True and another key prosecution witness, William Upshaw, were kept in protective custody prior to and throughout the trial because of the kidnaping and presumed murder of Baxter Shorter, another party to the killing.

Shorter allegedly confessed to the killing but was kidnaped from his home and was never seen again.

Napalm Plot Reported

When True appeared in court, he was flanked by 11 plainclothes detectives, and armed guards took up vantage points in the spectators section.

The day prior to his testimony, it was revealed that two friends of the three defendants plotted to throw napalm on True before he could get on the witness stand and turn him into a "human torch."

Police said the three

defendants were to have attempted an escape in the ensuing excitement.

The two men involved in the plot were arrested prior to the day True was to appear, so the planned escape never materialized.

However, sheriff's deputies took no chances even after the plot was foiled, since there was a rumor that \$1,500 had been offered to have Upshaw killed before he could testify.

Some persons were searched for firearms prior to entering the courtroom, and armed guards watched the spectators for any irregular action. Other deputies patrolled the outside corridors.

Mrs. Graham, Santo and Perkins all died in the gas chamber June 3, 1955, but not before Mrs. Graham received two last-minute postponements of execution—one literally a minute and a half before she was scheduled to die.

Gun Smuggling Feared

Currently being retried for the alleged murder of a police officer in 1963, Gregory Powell, 34, and Jimmy Lee Smith, 37, were also the center of extra security precautions during their first trial when police received a tip that a friend was planning to smuggle a gun in to help the two men escape.

They were found guilty of first-degree murder and

sentenced to death. The decision was overturned by the State Supreme Court because police had not properly advised the two men of their rights before questioning them.

The men, who had served prison terms on several felony convictions, allegedly kidnaped and shot to death Ian James Campbell in an onion field in Bakersfield.

Superior Judge Mark Brandler, the first trial judge, recalls that every person entering the courtroom was searched, armed guards were brought in to

watch over the prisoners and additional sheriff's deputies patrolled the outside halls.

The suspected escape attempt never materialized.

Additional Deputies

A spokesman for the sheriff's patrol division, a body of 1,400 emergency personnel, said it is not uncommon for additional deputies to be on hand for controversial cases where the safety of persons involved may be threatened or where there is a chance of the prisoner attempting to escape.

The decision on additional security measures is usually left up to each judge. Should a prisoner somehow escape, each courtroom in the Hall of Justice is equipped with an alarm system.

A loud-speaker system also exists throughout the building to alert guards to any attempted break.

A member of the district attorney's staff said additional guards generally are used to prevent escapes from the courtroom, but seldom are necessary to protect the defendant, as in Sirhan's case.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

May Delay Trial of Sirhan

Trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, may be delayed from Nov. 1 until early next year.

This possibility was raised yesterday by discussions under way between judges and attorneys.

Sirhan, a 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant, will make his sixth court appearance tomorrow when a hearing date will be set for motion by defense attorney Russell E. Parsons to suppress certain evidence and be given all statements and reports now held by prosecutors and police.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker has been assigned the trial in the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice.

A reason given for the trial delay was an estimate that it may take two months. If it began Nov. 1, jurors probably would be locked up during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years holidays.

Sirhan also has been charged with feloniously assaulting, with intent to commit murder, five other persons attending the victory celebration when Sen. Kennedy was shot in the Ambassador Hotel June 5.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The State Supreme Court meeting in San Francisco refused to modify restrictions on pretrial publicity in the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Los Angeles Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger asked for a relaxation of restrictions laid down by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Arthur L. Alarcon. Judge Alarcon's order forbids anyone involved with the Kennedy case from disclosing any documents, exhibits or evidence or the identity of any witnesses who might be called. Sirhan is scheduled to go on trial Nov. 1 in Los Angeles Superior Court.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Court Will Study 3 Sirhan Issues

Major preliminary decisions in the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused of slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, will be taken Oct. 14.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker will be asked to decide three things:

① May the Sirhan trial be delayed from its scheduled starting date of Nov. 1?

② May Sirhan's defense counsel, Russell Parsons, have access to much of the evidence against the accused Kennedy slayer amassed by Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger and his men?

③ Will some of this evidence be suppressed—that is, will some of this evidence be forbade from the trial?

These three issues, as expected, were raised by Parsons yesterday in a six-minute hearing before Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

After the brief court session Parsons and Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn Compton expanded on the issues to be joined at the Oct. 14 hearing.

It appeared that prosecution and defense will reach their

first major clash over the issue of postponing the trial.

Parsons' reason for postponement is not for delay, but in a belief that the jurors who try Sirhan should be sequestered—that is locked up during the course of the trial.

There is ample precedent for sequestering a jury. But any jury sequestered in November would be locked away from its families during the Christmas holidays.

Parsons suggests a delay in the trial which would allow preliminary moves to be made early in December, but would put off until after Jan. 1 formal selection of a jury and, consequently, the bulk of the trial itself.

Compton told newsmen that the district attorney's office does not believe it is necessary to sequester the jury.

He foresaw that such a course of action would needlessly complicate jury selection and held that the district attorney's office would prefer to trust the integrity of jurors rather than to lock them away from any trial publicity.

The other two motions Judge Walker will hear Oct. 14 deal with evidence Parsons wants suppressed, and things known to the district attorney which the defense counsel wishes to find out.

Parsons will ask Judge Walker to forbid Younger's office to use in evidence notebooks assertedly kept by Sirhan and seized by police at the defendant's mother's Pasadena home.

These notebooks, and "library books" taken from the Pasadena residence were seized illegally, Parsons maintains.

Among the evidence in Dist. Atty. Younger's possession sought by the defense is an "inch-thick" FBI summary of evidence in the Sirhan case.

Parsons also wants to know the names of a number of witnesses interviewed by police and district attorney's investigators.

These include a number of employees of the Ambassador Hotel on duty the night of June 4 when Kennedy was shot.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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cc Bu 10/7

Parsons is particularly interested in what they may know of Sirhan's "state of mind" that fateful night.

Parsons was resentful of some of the treatment the defense has had as it has prepared to bring this case to trial.

He complained that some medical records regarding Sirhan had been denied him.

"This is typical of the treatment we have received," the defense attorney said.

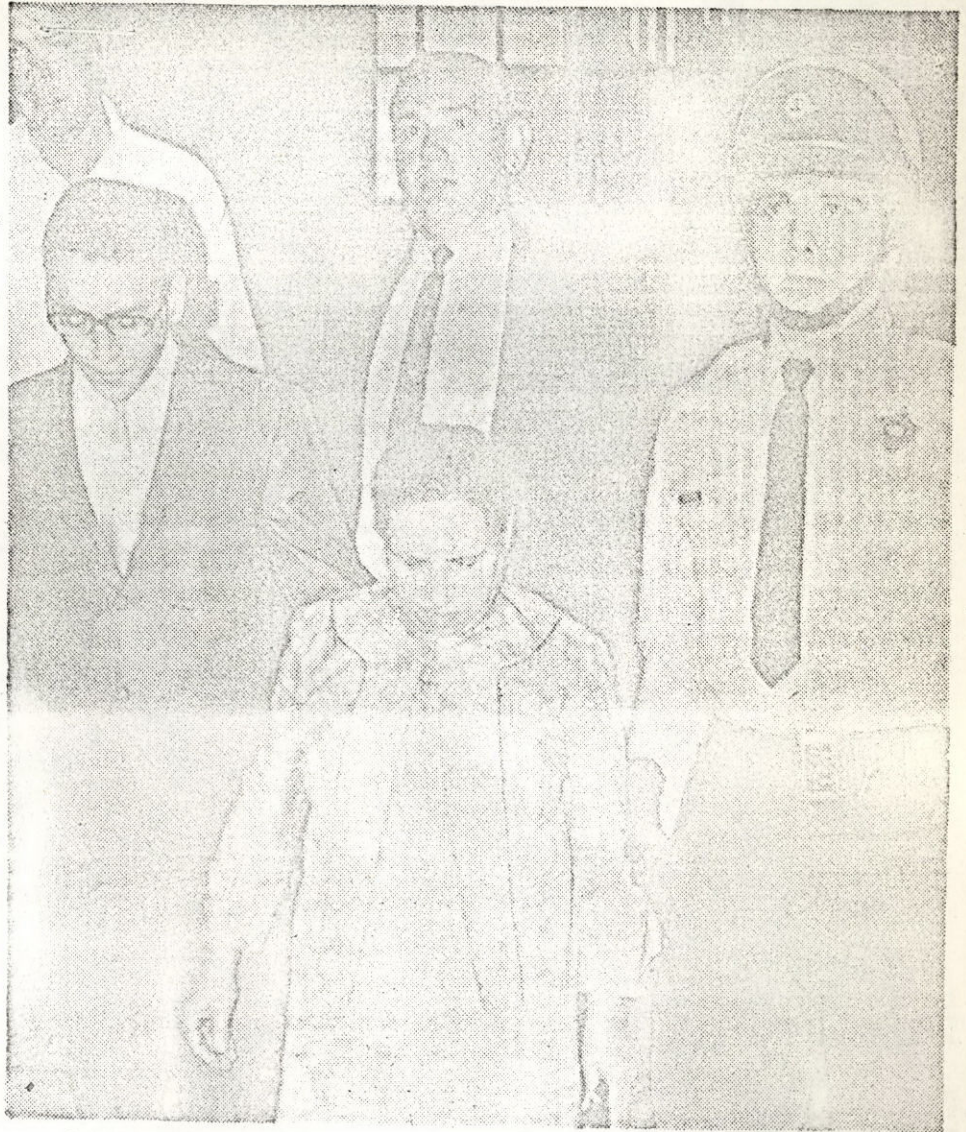
Turning to the subject of the defendant himself, Parsons said Sirhan is becoming increasingly nervous as the trial date approaches.

Parsons said he continued to receive threats and remained under police guard.

He also said that his family had sought to get him to give up the Sirhan case.

"They think I'm a damn fool," the elderly lawyer said, "but I'm in this to the end."

"I've never given up on a criminal case yet and I certainly won't now because I want the word to go forth from Los Angeles that a fair trial for any accused is a fact—not a theory—in this nation."



—United Press Telephoto

SIRHAN SIRHAN'S FAMILY HEARS PLEA FOR TRIAL CONTINUANCE
At pre-trial session were brother Munir, left, accused assassin's mother, Mary

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Delay of Sirhan Trial Until 1969 Requested

Attorney Also Asks Jury Be Locked Up; Hearing to Be Oct. 14

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan's lawyer asked Friday that his client's trial on charges of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and wounding five others be continued until after the first of the year because it would work a hardship on the jury to be locked up over the holidays.

The request that the case, now set to be tried on Nov. 1, be postponed highlighted Sirhan's sixth and briefest session in court.

The 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant appeared before Superior Judge Richard Schauer for five minutes.

Judge Schauer set Oct. 14 as the date for a hearing on defense attorney Russell Parson's proposal for a continuance and on his previously filed motions to suppress certain evidence and be given all statements and police reports now in the hands of the prosecution.

Walker to Hear Motions

Those matters will be heard before Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, the veteran criminal jurist who has been assigned to preside over Sirhan's trial.

Although Sirhan's appearance was brief, he seemed to be in a good mood, smiling frequently at Parsons and at his mother, Mary Sirhan, and brother, Munir, both of whom again were in court.

This was in contrast to Parsons' later statement at a press conference which followed the court session that Sirhan has been getting "nervous" as the trial date approaches.

While still in court, Parsons moved that the jury be sequestered—or locked up—"in the interest of justice."

The attorney noted that the U.S. Supreme Court had suggested such a procedure in some of its decisions as one means of preventing jurors from learning about extra-judicial matters.

Alternative Suggestion

As an alternative to locking up the jury over the holidays, Parsons suggested that the court might wish to begin with the selection of a jury in early December and then recess the case (sometime before Christmas) until after Jan. 1.

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, who appeared in court with the two prosecutors assigned to the case, John E. Howard and David Fitts, indicated later that his office will oppose any move to sequester the jury.

"It puts a terrible burden on a jury to be in what amounts to a solitary confinement for two or three months," Compton declared. "We would prefer to rely on their (the jurors) good judgment and integrity."

He said sequestering the jury during the trial would limit the selection of jurors to those people who are "financially, socially and otherwise able" to be locked up for a long period of time.

Parsons said he was forced to ask that the jury be locked up so as not to prejudice any grounds for appeal he might later have in case of a conviction.

One of these could be, he pointed out, that the jurors were influenced by publicity during the trial.

"If the jury is not locked up, the Appellate Courts could ask, 'Why didn't you request that the jury be sequestered?'" Parsons explained.

Instead of acting on the request for a continuance, Judge Schauer said he thought the trial judge (Walker) should make that decision.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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1 OCT 7 1968	
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BW
10/17

The present thinking of the court, it has been learned, is that the trial should proceed in early December, with a short recess for the holidays.

Empanelment of Jury

In a case of such magnitude, it is doubtful that a jury could be empaneled by Christmas and indications are that only the jury (and alternates), as finally selected, would be sequestered.

There are at least three major problem areas which probably would negate the possibility of a quick jury selection:

1—The death penalty is involved and in such cases prospective jurors are queried closely as to their beliefs about capital punishment.

2—The case has been given a great amount of publicity which might have influenced some jurors.

3—Sen. Kennedy was a prominent and controversial figure and each prospective juror presumably would be questioned as to his or her feelings toward him.

(At the press conference Parsons said he has concluded from the many letters sent to Sirhan that Sen. Kennedy was either greatly loved or hated).

Compton said the position of his office on the matter of a postponement in the trial is that "we will be ready to go to trial on Nov. 1 or at any other time."

There is, however, no chance that the trial will begin as now scheduled. In an advisory notice issued to the press late Friday, Judge Walker announced that applications to cover the trial will be accepted up to midnight Nov. 4.

As to his motion for the suppression of certain evidence, Parsons

said he wants back everything taken "without a search warrant" from Sirhan's room in his mother's house in Pasadena, including notebooks, books, and papers.

Compton said his office will oppose the motion on the grounds that the material was not improperly seized.

Both Parsons and Compton agreed that by law the defense is entitled to all statements taken from witnesses and all investigative reports, including those of the FBI, prepared in the case.

Parsons said he still expects to have another lawyer in the case with him.

He said that lawyer still is engaged in another legal matter, but added, "I report to him what I'm doing and seek his advice."

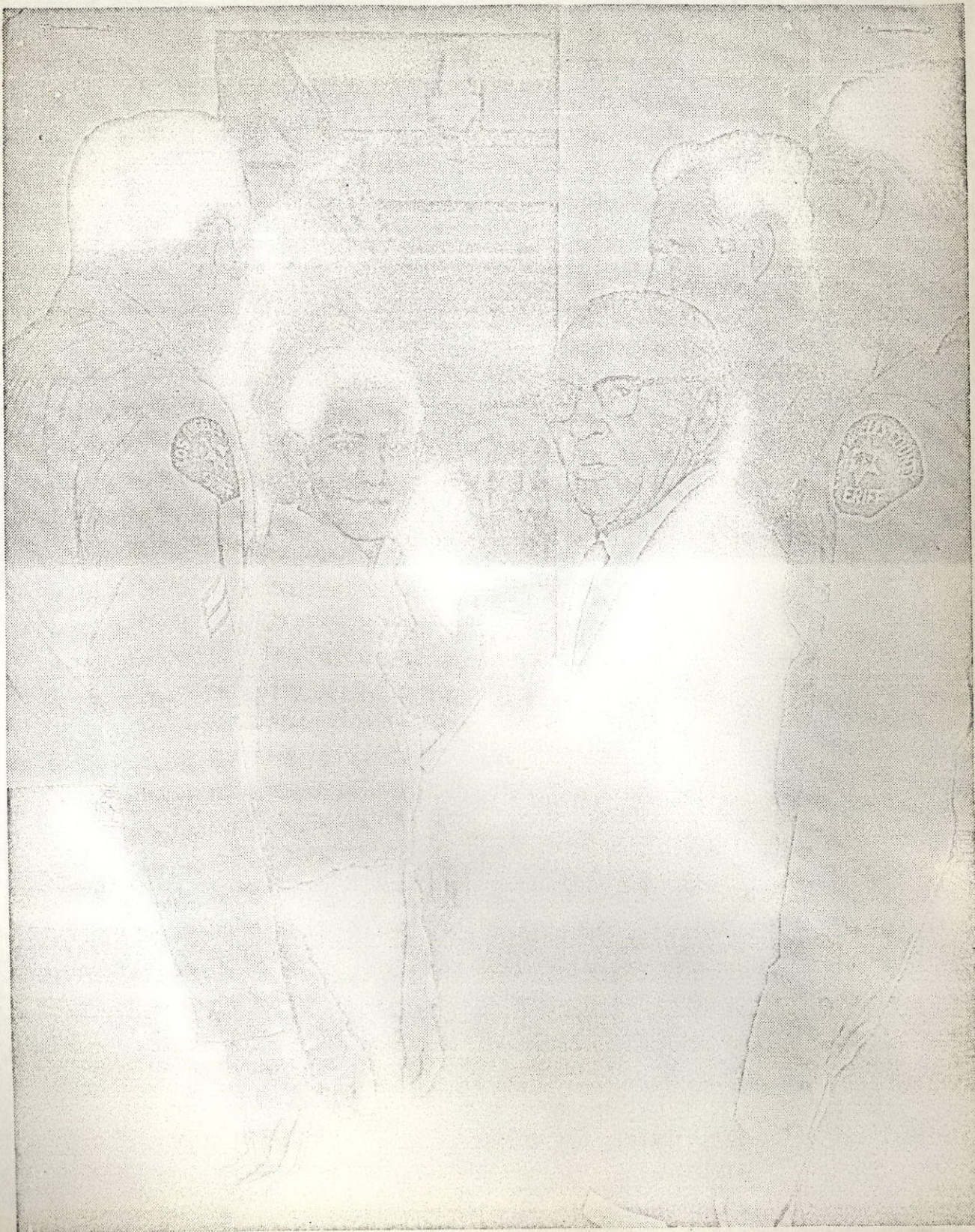
He explained that only \$105 has been donated for Sirhan's defense — "I haven't touched any of it" — and that no money has come from Sirhan's father "or anyone else" in the Middle East as has been rumored.

Parsons refused to comment on reports that book and movie rights have

been sold and that a sizable part of the royalties will be paid to him.

"That's a matter between my client and his family," he said. "But I don't think any book should be published until after the trial."

Parsons said Sirhan still is "nervous, but doing pretty well, under the circumstances," and he disclosed that his client recently was examined by four or five doctors, "one as late as yesterday."



RETURNS TO CELL—Surrounded by sheriff's deputies, Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, with his attorney, Russell E. Smith, returns to cell after his court appearance. Times photo by John Malinin

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Delay of Sirhan Trial Until 1969 Requested

Attorney Also Asks Jury Be Locked Up; Hearing to Be Oct. 14

BY RON EINSTOSS
Times Staff Writer

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1—The death penalty is involved and in such cases prospective jurors are queried closely as to their beliefs about capital punishment.

2—The case has been given a great amount of publicity which might have influenced some jurors.

3—Sen. Kennedy was a prominent and controversial figure and each prospective juror presumably would be questioned as to his or her feelings toward him.

(At the press conference Parsons said he has concluded from the many letters sent to Sirhan that Sen. Kennedy was either greatly loved or hated).

Compton said the position of his office on the matter of a postponement in the trial is that "we will be ready to go to trial on Nov. 1 or at any other time."

There is, however, no chance that the trial will begin as now scheduled. In an advisory notice issued to the press late Friday, Judge Walker announced that applications to cover the trial will be accepted up to midnight Nov. 4.

As to his motion for the suppression of "certain evidence, Parsons

Please Turn to Page 6, Col. 5

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

III-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Author: RON FINSTOSS

Editor: Nick B. Williams

Title: KENSAET

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FBI — LOS ANGELES	
A.O. RICHARDS (10/11)	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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OPEN CITY
Weekly Review of
The Los Angeles Renaissance
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: Oct. 11-17, 1968 Issue

Edition: page 10

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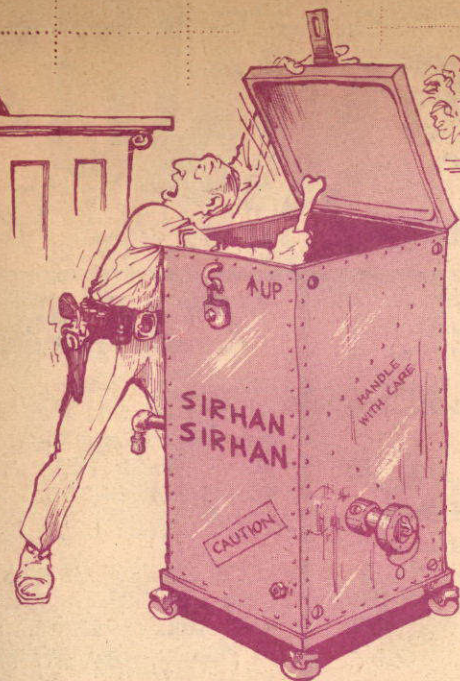
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A.O. RICHARDS	

SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN



"Uh....Your Honor, I think I have bad news...."

by JACK HIRSCHMAN

The face displaced by the camera eye the journey known in the gut of every fanatic which is to say American victim of the vengeance screen of television and the duplicity of Pop the awful paranoid seasons of the blood turned into zodiacs of selflaceration great deserts of fear in which one walks alone clutching the straws of gigantic hieroglyphic books the literature of the land of Naught and where the plots of gardens outside the skull are equalled by the furious plots permitted out of long desolation and realms of the distances of contempt to be daily fashioned within the mixed bag of desparations black white and tan

And a poet come from New York when I asked her what she thought was behind the ass ass I Nation said promptly a rightwing conspiracy and a thunder of falling Chings buddhist texts kabbalas blavatskys and lastditch siddharthas piled up in the imagination before the outstretched match for it would take me all of these and a couple of centuries as well to explain that cruelty peculiar to our moment that whichwaywhat of the currents of darkness that rightleft and middle that black white and tan all are integers of selfdefeat all are causes of an inner mumbling to oneself a grumbling against the daily predicament made into the revolution of free men utterly impotent because they wanted the power of their picture in the papers Kennedy and Sirhan Sirhan both in a land which everyday makes one feel alien free and easy in death

One saw finally his picture in the papers in a white-shirt he was surrounded by the sullenoid and defeated faces of the cops his whole countenance turned to the camera which began his infinite regression a paranoid glee a gaiety almost as of someone cleared of a heavy burden but most of all the smile the smile of yes say it Cheese for the land whose

true story is written in the travesty and betrayal of moving pictures mama was always going to on boring days and nights until finally they chopped up the bars and installed television in the homes for such a land what higher goal for a young man then either to be president or the assassinator of a candidate what more exciting audience to witness one's execration Etranger imagine the whole world tuning in to your martyrdom your judgement your punishment Oh cruel land which shoots the veins full of the lies that Care lies here But yes it does But yes it does but dead

Yet his is the face the poor inner cheekbones of our psyche know for the gypsy look of the defeated the isolated potential and more than know for the act of one declared in this criminally ridden land to be a criminal act is the act deserving our deepest inner emotion who are taught early by the flickers to find solace for our in fact physical passivity in machines in war in murder except that with this act of a couple of months ago there was a difference

It was essential that the journey be made with McCarthy and Kennedy projecting an image of Two men giving the illusion of being somehow after all brothers in the Greek that is New Testamental sense of the word essential because they could spell one another coming together at this point fending each other at that giving I say the illusion of a fraternity necessary to accomodate the inner schizophrenia of both men and women in a land making split and infinite wars all over the planet back of which lay the racist nightmare for white America where a seemingly singleminded power not actually anything more than another image projection across the boards of our brainwashed theaterscreens offered up what is to most the frightening horrors of the Night we have never learned to live in

Sirhan Sirhan had become meanwhile Conged with conspiracy not very different from thousands even millions all over with fists raised either outwardly at demonstrations or inwardly in spacedout rooms all over the suburban complex of the halfassed affluence of the American technocratic war Conged I say with a moral righteousness gone berserk along the kanals of his inner dribblings Conged with regress and the feeling of feeling faint of vanishing into the thin and chokingly tightened air of the fascism of smog Conged left and right Conged into the fiction of the middle which grew fast and furious with vengeance salted by the electric news attacks on television the tall black headlines of the Los Angeles Times which for example the day after John F. Kennedy's death ran a headline saying ASSASSINATE KENNEDY more that is a command for the future than a report of the past so Conged also by an individual boredom that reaches out everywhere for the machine's inspiration to get plugged in to take one's place in this network of criminal voltage electrify the whole earth or itself be electro shocked

For dying is our excitement and justice our fixed idea and even as the body of the brother Kennedy was being given its lincolnesque journey home to lie near his brother as endless metaphor of the almost Greek destiny of America the archbishopric ceremonies finished the small towns of the face come through the technocratic skin to pay passing homage to the reverberation a centennial old story even then they eyes were beginning to be turned in the direction of the real meat of the land the law and its justice as Kennedy had passed into the systems of the bloods compassion had crossed the boards or the screen of our popular devilishness so now there would be the merciless other side of this cold blooded frontier psyche the trial of a man who also loved himself being snapped who also was reared with a helplessly barraged consciousness Video man with a crucial mistrust of dialogue at the same paradoxical moment he expresses himself articulately cool hip arabian paranoia containing the mass of electric uptightness dished out by the Federal Box driving one to commit the revolution of revolution the transcendence of his family to die into stardom at the point of a gun to mount the father and mother and surmount them in that apocalyptically vivid region called the light of show business which creates that awful benignity in death that rises above ALL minorities for murder had become the only way to crash into heaven in a land gone to pot with the belief that reality was in the moving pictures

And there is this other side of the buffalo nickel which has to do with the perpetuation of The Boys you see the story of America is charted in relation to the street-comer in the dirtypictured and blasphemous bottom of all our lives where on the other hand the true and genuine excitement of cameraderie first was generated in the provincial Bronx and Brooklyn smalltown drugstore or poolroom with its hustles and kidnifty vengeance vendettas we grew up and away from only to be hammered back to in the stud stunning Thirties [Twenties for most of the young ones now] where we either stay put fighting wars of words and lovely lunatics crossing our thresholds or take the escalator to the Powerhouse and its dull thuds and thugs anyway will get you dead because everybody's just wild about Hitler and wants it from both sides like that madman asked for The Ladies Russia and America to finish his sick christ off because he had lost his senses

Who was it McLuhan who said via mixed mass media any yokel could become the center of the universe tune into the ptolemaic hardcore of death become naturally methadrenal fill the blood with erections and the erections with bullets instead of sperm which has less and less natural outlet this that and those are the ingredients of the socalled conspiracy the running blood-vengeance behind the mummymasks of all assassins

Yet the second Kennedy assassination the Other Kennedy the failure of the possibility of maintaining a high level mythology with so to speak the brother resurrecting the dead brother in the flesh marks the end of a cycle of muscular and even aristocratic virulence including John F. Kennedy Martin Luther King and lesser known but even more poetic lights like Malcolm X leaving the horizon strangely empty and returned to the dull greys the crushing middle which is that provincial fascist in us all yearning for that old gang of slipping into and out the professional suit playing the sort of chessgame of death knowing one is helping an evil cause and a mind turned against itself which is on both counts America but she is the only land today which makes one mad and in that madness lies the seeds of a battle against its idolatrous moving pictured anonymity which threatens to publicize everything and so render privacy empty at which point The Machinery of the State has won

Now chillin I shall tell a little story upon returning to America in the summer of 1967 I found myself at the home of a dear friend Yehuda Tarmu in the midst of that same Israeli-Egyptian war which seems to have torn Sirhan Sirhan's natural paranoid gall to shreds and at one point in the reports and for a thousand other reasons as well but when I heard that six Indians were killed in the war I took a swing at my friend later wrote of it in a posterpoem published in London in which I wrote that "I am the guilty arab with Christian leanings born in The Bronx who struck Yehuda this morning the body politic is all screwed up whose east west and middle have erupted on my chin" which is to say many things but most of all to indicate that my friendship with this man continues and I ask you listen closely to this dig in and listen continues not because of Jew or Arab American or Russian Chinese or Cuban German or French but because of a force that stands between them uniting through all distances and rather than be occult and mysterious let me take you downtown New York City on the Cuba to Capetown express as we used to call the subway full of the dark peoples of the new world on a day shortly after the end of World War II when coming up out of the subway I must have been puberty years old I saw the headlines announcing the assassination of Ghandi which I insist was the start of my own involvement with the world an event returned to ever and over for after that death all men were definitely twained like the split skull of Berlin and must needs see the murderer and the murdered as one man through whom the transmigration of the breath of the shantih shantih shantih of ashes blown from the Ganges must spark with forgiveness all the way west here

[Part 2 of "Sirhan Sirhan" will run in "Open City" next week.]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ARMED MAN AT RITES FOR KENNEDY GUILTY

NEW YORK (AP)—Gary R. De Dell, a Syracuse, N.Y., printing executive, has been found guilty of illegal possession of a pistol at the funeral of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

A three-judge panel in Criminal Court returned the verdict Tuesday. He was continued free in \$2,000 bail pending sentencing Nov. 13. De Dell, 30, faces a prison sentence of one year and a \$1,000 fine.

De Dell as surrendering an unloaded pistol to a detective at St. Patrick's Cathedral under "suspicious circumstances."

De Dell testified he was trying to turn the weapon over to a policeman when arrested.

The weapon was legally registered in De Dell's name in Syracuse, but police said the permit was not valid here.

The prosecution pic-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-5 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Sirhan Trial... The Men Who Represent the State

By John Douglas

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

"SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN is accused by the ... State of California, by this indictment, of the crime of MURDER, in violation of section 187, Penal Code of California, a felony committed prior to the finding of this indictment, and as follows;

That on or about the 5th day of June, 1968, at and in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, the said defendant, SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, did willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously and with malice aforethought murder Robert Francis Kennedy, a human being."

A TRUE BILL

The time was 4 p.m., June 7. The place was the austere Protestant chapel of Los Angeles County's Central Jail.

But it wasn't a chapel that day; it was a court. At the bar stood Sirhan to be formally indicted with the murder of Robert Francis Kennedy—described in the dry, precise language of the law only as a "human being."

Although there certainly can have been little question in the diminutive Jordanian's mind since his rough arrest a few minutes after Kennedy's shooting—now it was official. The sides were drawn:

On one side stood Sirhan, and the elderly attorney he would later choose to plead his cause.

On the other stood the State of California—all its men, resources and majesty.

The issue?

The life and death of Senator Kennedy; and now, the life, and perhaps the death of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

A census of the State's men arrayed against Sirhan discloses there are nearly as many committed to keeping him alive, as there are seeking his conviction. And this has been so since Kennedy's shooting.

The first official of the State to get to Sirhan was not a policeman, but a politician—Jesse M. Unruh, Speaker of the California Assembly.

And eyewitness' account of the Ambassador kitchen melee indicate the accused assassin may owe his life to Unruh.

Says a reporter who was there:

"The crowd was ugly. There could have been a lynching.

"After they got Sirhan down, Unruh kept shouting:

"Don't kill him!

"I want him alive!

"We can't have another Dallas."

Unruh followed the Los Angeles Police who took Sirhan into custody to their car and rode with them to the Ramparts Station.

On the way to the station, one of the officers asked him who he was:

"Speaker Unruh."—"Oh."

But the safety of the defendant in the Kennedy murder case is only an ancillary issue to the State.

The chief issue is the prosecution.

Nominally, that prosecution is in the hands of Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger.

But Younger, former FBI agent, former Superior Court Judge, and head of the huge prosecutive arm of Los Angeles County, has taken little active part in the case.

He has made but one court appearance—that was an attempt to get restrictions on publicity in the case eased. He failed.

Burden of the State against Sirhan rests in the hands of Younger's Chief Deputy, Lynn D. Compton.

Compton, ex-policeman turned prosecutor, is a veteran of 17 years with the district attorney's office. He has never practiced law any where else.

His record as a prosecutor—particularly as a homicide prosecutor—is good—too good for Sirhan's comfort.

While an LAPD detective, he attended Loyola University Law School at night. He passed the bar 19 years ago, and remained with the police burglary squad for two years after that, until switching over to the district attorney's office.

Married, he is the father of two children.

is the florid, crewcut,

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Compton who will face Sirhan and his lawyer across the armor-plated Hall of Justice courtroom tomorrow when preliminary motions in the case are argued.

Seated with Compton will be his two associates in the case—John Howard, another Loyola Law graduate with 16 years in the department, and David N. Fitts, who joined the district attorney's staff 14 years ago from Stanford University Law School.

Sirhan, and Compton, will face a new judge tomorrow.

Superior Judge Herbert B. Walker takes over the case, on assignment from the court's presiding Judge Richard Schauer, who handled the preliminaries.

Judge Walker, a forbidding man, has tried more murder cases than any judge in the county—probably more than any jurist in California.

It was he who sentenced Caryl Chessman to death.

There will be three issues argued tomorrow—all at Parsons' instigation.

The defense seeks:

• Discovery—the right to examine the case assembled against Sirhan.

• Suppression—a move to strike from the case the diaries Sirhan kept in his room at his mother's Pasadena home. Parsons says these were taken by police unreasonably and without a search warrant.

• Postponement—delay in the trial until after the Christmas holiday. It is now scheduled to begin Nov. 1.

Compton has indicated he will not oppose Parsons' discovery motion. Both California and U.S. law clearly give a defendant the right to learn of the case prepared against him before trial.

When, and if, Judge Walker grants discovery, the defense will get some idea of the magnitude of the army of investigators both the state and federal government have enlisted against Sirhan.

Compton has available to him in the district attorney's office 160 investigators. Any or all of them can be mobilized against the accused assassin at any time.

But few have been.

Bulk of the investigation in the case has been done by the FBI and a special task force of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Deputy Chief of Police Robert Houghton has general oversight of this task force as the city's Chief of Detectives.

But its real boss is Capt. Hugh I. Brown—overlord of LAPD's homicide squad.

Capt. Brown has been a policeman for 23 years, and a detective for 21.

He joined the homicide squad in 1957 and has been its commander since 1962.

Shortly after Sirhan's arrest, Chief Thomas Reddin created the squad in order that full coordination and the best men available could be marshalled against Sirhan.

When originally created, the "Sirhan Task Force," as it is called, numbered 23 men. It grew to 40 detectives and policemen at the height of the investigation, and now, with most of the work done, has dwindled to 15.

During the probe more than 4,000 contacts were made, and scores of interviews and statements completed.

Some of these were useless—for example the search for the non-existent "Polka-dot girl"—the young woman allegedly seen with Sirhan at the scene of the crime.

Many more, however, bore fruit, and make up the basis of the case of the State vs. Sirhan.

Members of the task force were drawn from all divisions and bureaus of the LAPD and included skills ranging from interrogation, through foreign languages to ballistics and criminology.

Nor is the LAPD alone in the case.

Although it has said little about it, the FBI—both through its Los Angeles office and from Washington, D.C.—assembled a body of evidence in the case.

J. Edgar Hoover, legendary

FBI chief, oversaw the work from Bureau headquarters, and the organization's agent in charge here, Wesley Grapp, quarterbacked the Los Angeles effort.

A summary of the FBI's case is contained in an "inch-thick" book which has been turned over to Compton.

Parsons seeks an order from Judge Walker giving him access to this book.

The FBI has little to say of its investigation, but it has been learned that at its zenith more than 50 agents were involved throughout the country.

Sirhan waits tomorrow's outcome in a cell-within-a-cell on an upper floor of the baroque Hall of Justice.

With him at all times is at least one deputy sheriff, sometimes more.

His food is prepared separately from other prisoners by a supervising cook in the jail.

Early tomorrow morning—hours before the hearing begins—two helmeted deputies will take up station outside the Hall of Justice.

More will hover above the building in a helicopter.

Nearly a score will process, search and scrutinize the newsmen who cover the session.

Another three will bring Sirhan from his cell to the armor plated courtroom on the 13th floor where the proceedings will be held.

These men, according to Capt. Lyle Fields, of the Sheriff's Information Bureau, are drawn from the "normal" jail and bureau staffs of the Sheriff's department.

Inside the courtroom four more deputies will stand guard. They will be tired—for at each session of court the "inside guards" are men held on duty from the night shift.

Responsibility for guarding and protecting Sirhan during the trial rests with Sheriff Peter Pitchess, with Under-sheriff William McCloud assigned the special task.



Evelle Younger



Lynn Compton



Thomas Reddin



Hugh Brown



Peter Pitchess



Sirhan B. Sirhan,
the accused,
who has
occupied
the energy of
these men.



William McCloud



Robert Houghton



Wesley Grapp

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Battle Due On Sirhan Notebook Evidence

Sirhan Notebooks Are Point of Issue

(Continued from Page A-1)

A head-on clash between defense and prosecution in the case of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused as the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is forecast for next Tuesday when the two sides will argue suppression of part of the state's evidence.

At issue is the admissibility of several notebooks allegedly kept by Sirhan and seized from his room at the family home—696 E. Howard St., Pasadena.

According to Deputy Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, in charge of prosecuting Sirhan, he and defense counsel Russell D. Parsons are in disagreement not only on the law as to the evidential value of the diaries, but also as to the facts surrounding their seizure by police June 5.

At Parsons' request, Judge Herbert V. Walker, who is hearing pre-trial motions in the Sirhan case, delayed arguments on suppression yesterday at a court session which produced these developments:

○ Postponement of the trial's opening until Dec. 9. The case will start then and recess around Dec. 23 until after the Christmas-New Year holiday.

○ Granting of 120 items of prosecution evidence to the defense through a discovery proceeding—a legal maneuver which allows defense counsel to examine the prosecution's case in advance of the trial.

The same court session heard Compton announce that the district attorney's office was satisfied that Sirhan had no accomplices, and that there was no conspiracy in the Kennedy shooting.

As to the Sirhan diaries, or notebooks—Parsons insists that they were taken illegally because the police who searched the Sirhan home were not armed with a search warrant.

(Continued on Page A-2, Col. 1)

There is also disagreement over the manner in which the seizure was accomplished.

Compton will produce three police witnesses next week. Parsons also will call witnesses.

One of the reasons for yesterday's delay was that a defense witness is out of the state and will not be available until next week.

At a June 6 news conference, Mayor Sam Yorty announced the seizure of the Sirhan diaries. The Mayor said one of them contained the sentence:

"Kennedy has to be assassinated before June 5, 1968"—the first anniversary of the six-day Israeli blitz in the Mideast.

At yesterday's session Deputy Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, an associate of Compton, turned over to Parsons the names and statements of 120 witnesses questioned by police and the FBI in the Kennedy assassination investigation.

These included 67 persons who allegedly saw Sirhan at the Ambassador Hotel the night of June 4, and witnessed his arrest following the shooting early June 5. The list included Speaker Jesse Unruh, Rafer Johnson, George Plimpton, Hugh McDonald, assistant press secretary to the slain senator, and several employees of the hotel.

Also turned over to Parsons were transcripts of recordings of six police interrogations of Sirhan made between his arrest and his arraignment about 8 a.m. June 5 in the court of Municipal Judge Joan Dempsey Kline.

At a news conference following yesterday's hearing, Parsons took pains to point out that no attorney was present with Sirhan during these investigations.

He also said that there was "serious doubt" that his client

had been informed of his constitutional rights before these interrogations took place.

The discovery proceeding also raised the question of whether there had been violence during Sirhan's questioning. Parsons sought and got the statement of Officers Fred Willoughby and Eugene H. Austen, in response to a question about police who may have seen Sirhan kick a coffee cup out of Willoughby's hand.

Also sought and given the defense were the names and statements of 15 witnesses who allege to have seen Sirhan target shooting at the San Gabriel Valley Country club the day prior to Kennedy's shooting.

Given the defense, too, were the names and statements of four men of Arabic surname who allegedly spent time with Sirhan prior to the Kennedy shooting.

In deciding on postponement of the trial, Judge Walker made it clear that he intends to sequester the jury—that is, order them locked up during the trial.

He said jury selection would begin Dec. 9 and continue through Dec. 23, at which time he will recess the trial for the holidays.

The jurors will not be sworn until following the recess, Judge Walker said, but after they are sworn they will be locked up.

Purpose of the sequestering is to make certain jurors see no publicity on the case which might prejudice their verdict.

Judge Walker said the press had been very cooperative in the case so far, but, he concluded:

"There is a responsible press and an irresponsible press, and I can't control either one of them, and I wouldn't want to try."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
HERALD EXAMINER
 Los Angeles, Calif.
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Legal Skirmishes May Mark Sirhan Return to Court Today

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan returns to court today and for the first time his appearance is expected to be marked by legal skirmishes between opposing attorneys.

The previous six times he appeared before the bench could be classified as being of a routine nature, such as arraignment, plea and postponements.

But this time Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker will be asked to rule on three defense motions, all of which could require some argument.

Russell E. Parsons, who is defending the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant charged with the election-night slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and the wounding of five others, is seeking:

1—A postponement of the trial now set for Nov. 1.

2—A court order directing prosecutors to turn over to him copies of all statements taken from witnesses, photographs and reports of investigating agencies, including the police and FBI.

Suppression of Evidence

3 — The suppression of certain evidence Parsons claims was taken without a search warrant from Sirhan's room in his mother's Pasadena home several hours after the shooting.

Parsons, because legal precedent is on his side, is conceded a good chance of getting most of what he wants.

It is certain that the case will not go to trial on Nov. 1, partly because the monumental preparations for security and the handling of news media have not yet been completed and also because the lawyer who is expected to assist Parsons in defending Sirhan still is engaged in another matter.

Because Judge Walker has made known his plans to sequester the jury, Parsons, who favors such a move, wants a trial date after Jan. 1.

That would insure that the jury is not locked up over the holidays.

It does not appear he will be successful.

The court's present intention reportedly is to begin the jury selection in early December, with a recess between Christmas and New Year's Day.

The sequestering of the jurors, it is understood, would not come until after the complete jury, including alternates, has been impaneled.

The combination of a possible death penalty, the great amount of

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II-1 Los Angeles Times
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publicity in the case and the prominence of the victim would seem to militate against the selection of the jury in less than two weeks.

Prosecutors have indicated that their position on any request for a continuance is that they will be ready to go to trial on Nov. 1 or at any other time, and that if there is any delay in the proceedings, it will be defense-motivated.

Opposition Possible

Parsons' other two motions probably will be opposed to some extent by Dep. Dist. Attys. Lynn D. Compton, John E. Howard and David N. Fitts.

Under court decisions, Parsons is at least entitled to see any evidence the prosecution intends to present in court.

How much more than this Parsons is able to get—those statements and other evidence prosecutors do not expect to use—will have to be decided by Judge Walker.

In any event, some opposition by the prosecution can be expected on this point.

Question Arises

Because there appears to be a question over the admissibility of the evidence Parsons wants to have suppressed—it is believed that no search war-

rant was used when it was seized—the extent to which that motion may be opposed by Compton, Howard and Fitts is not known.

They could state for the record that they do not intend to use such evidence—including notebooks, books and personal papers belonging to Sirhan—and the question as to whether it should be suppressed then would become moot.

There is always the possibility that because of the importance of the case the prosecution may feel it should take a so-called hardline and oppose every motion made by Parsons.

The danger in this is that if there is some merit to Parson's request—and there appears to be—a ruling adverse to the prosecution could be interpreted as a victory for the defense when, realistically, there was none.

Sirhan will probably be making his longest appearance in court yet. His previous stays have ranged from five minutes to 28 minutes.

The length of today's hearing, which could last most of the day or longer, will be determined by how strenuously the prosecution opposes Parsons' motions.

The proceedings again will be held in a makeshift courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice, near Sirhan's heavily guarded cell.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Both Sides Agree Sirhan Was Alone

Inquiry Indicates No Conspiracy; Judge Postpones Trial Until Dec. 9

BY RON EINSTOSS
Times Staff Writer

Both the prosecution and Sirhan B. Sirhan's own attorney Monday ruled out any conspiracy in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Spokesmen for the prosecution and the defense voiced their parallel views—based on a massive police investigation—just before Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker postponed the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant's trial from Nov. 1 to Dec. 9.

During the session before Judge Walker, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton turned over to the defense 111 statements of prospective witnesses, transcripts of six interviews with Sirhan by investigators and a seven-page report on police handling of Sirhan from the time of his arrest until he was remanded to custody of the sheriff.

Other Information 'Negative'

Then, a short time later, Compton advised Judge Walker that:

All the information dealing with the investigation of other possible suspects "is negative and of little value to anyone."

Later, at a press conference, attorney Russell E. Parsons, who is defending Sirhan, supported Compton's statement concerning the absence of a conspiracy when he said:

"We have seen no evidence of a conspiracy."

It marked the first time that the prosecution has given clear indication that it was convinced Sirhan was acting on his own when he allegedly shot Sen. Kennedy and wounded five others at the Ambassador in the early morning of June 5.

Sirhan seemed to enjoy his 55-minute session in court. Sitting in a padded swivel chair, he swung back and forth and from side to side, leaning over from time to time to confer with Parsons.

At Parsons' press conference which followed the adjournment of the court proceedings, however, the attorney said Sirhan is getting increasingly nervous as his trial approaches.

Parsons revealed for the first time Monday that he will be joined by two other lawyers in defending Sirhan. In addition to a previously indicated local attorney, who is now engaged in a federal trial, Parsons said a "prominent" New York lawyer will be coming into the case.

He refused to divulge the name of either attorney, explaining, "it wouldn't be right to do so at this time."

It was learned, however, that the New York lawyer is Emile Zola Berman. He is considered to be one of the best civil trial attorneys in that city.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 LOS ANGELES TIMES
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 10/15/68
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Editor: Nick B. William
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Parris Island Case

Berman attained a national reputation in 1956 when he defended Marine Staff Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon against charges of manslaughter, oppression and drinking on duty in a court-martial at the Parris Island, S.C., Marine Base.

Sgt. McKeon, accused of marching 74 young marines into a tidal marsh, was convicted of negligent homicide (six of the servicemen drowned) and of drinking on duty. He was reduced to private and imprisoned for three months.

Press accounts of the trial described Berman, a former Air Force colonel, as being a "colorful" and "aggressive advocate."

Monday's court session was scheduled at the request of Parsons for three purposes:

1—To postpone the trial date from Nov. 1.

2—For arguments on a defense motion to obtain evidence the prosecution intends to use during the trial.

3—To suppress any evidence taken without a search warrant from Sirhan's room in his mother's home several hours after the shootings.

Will Sequester Jury

After Judge Walker informed Parsons, who sought it, and the prosecutors, who opposed it, that he intended to sequester the jury because "I think it must be done," the jurist set the Dec. 9 trial date.

Sirhan waived an earlier trial.

Judge Walker said the selection of a jury and "four to six alternates" could begin at that time.

If the jury is selected before Dec. 23, he said he would not swear in the panel until after New Year's Day. This would allow the jurors to spend the holidays at home.

If the jury is not selected by Dec. 23, Judge Walker said he would recess the trial until about Jan. 2 when the picking of a jury could resume.

There would seem to be little likelihood a jury could be selected between the time the trial starts and Christmas. Parsons, in fact, said "it would be a miracle" if one was.

The prosecution, represented in court by Compton and Dep. Dist. Attys. John E. Howard and David N. Pitts, did not oppose any of Parsons' requests for statements of witnesses or reports of police officers.

Judge Walker ordered them to turn over only that evidence now in their

possession and said he did not expect them to act "as messengers" for the defense in obtaining any information which they did not have.

Such information, the jurist suggested, should be obtained in other ways—such as by subpoenaing it—by the defense.

Of the 111 statements given to Parsons in court, 67 of them came from persons who were present in the Ambassador the night Kennedy was shot.

Other Statements

Another 15 statements were those taken by police and FBI investigators from persons who had seen Sirhan at any target or pistol range within six months of the alleged crimes.

Compton made his statement that there was no conspiracy after Parsons told the court that he was satisfied that the prosecution has turned over all the evidence he is seeking.

Compton said his office has separated all its evidence into three categories:

1—"The witnesses we intend to use during the trial."

2—"The witnesses who have some peripheral information, but who we do not intend to use."

3—"That miscellaneous information dealing with the investigation of other possible suspects."

He refused to comment on the latter remark except to say that all that information "is negative" and "would be of little value to anyone."

However, it is known that a large police task force as well as FBI agents ran down every report

which even remotely suggested that a conspiracy existed.

Possibilities indicating a conspiracy which were rejected after full investigation included:

1—That a woman wearing a polka dot dress and another man accompanied Sirhan to the Ambassador the night of the shooting and when leaving after the shots were fired, were reported to have cried, "We shot him."

(The woman who told police she had seen and heard this later admitted that her statement was a fabrication.)

2—A witness to the shooting claimed to have seen a girl in a polka dot dress standing beside Sirhan just prior to the shooting.

(This witness admitted that his statement was false and had been made up by him after a conversation with the witness who first told police of the woman in the polka dot dress.)

3—A range master at a San Gabriel Valley gun club who saw Sirhan on June 4 said he overheard a woman tell Sirhan, "get the hell away from me. Someone might recognize us."

(This witness later admitted fabricating the conversation he claimed to have overheard.)

4—A man told investigators that he was with Sirhan prior to the shooting and indicated that he

and Sirhan were part of a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

(The man later admitted making up the story.)

5—A self-styled minister said he gave Sirhan and a male companion a ride on June 3 and that after dropping Sirhan off at the Ambassador for a few minutes made an arrangement to sell the defendant a horse for \$300. He said that after the shooting he received two telephone calls telling him to forget

about his "deal" with Sirhan.

(A polygraph examination given to the man indicating that he was not telling the truth and additional investigation disclosed that during the time Sirhan allegedly was with him he was home with his family.)

At the press conference, Parsons, without indicating what it would be, also said Sirhan does have a "valid" defense against the charges facing him.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

OPEN CITY

OCT 18-24 Issue

Weekly review of the Los Angeles Renaissance

Date: Oct 18-24 Issue

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SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN 2

by JACK HIRSCHMAN

Animals and castratos with a desperate need for space or desert space in the night of the cool of our uselessness is the song of this town that is no town this power that is no power which is Los Angeles and its interchangeable environs which may well be the future man you are stuck with whether in New York San Francisco Paris Rome or London a southland place that stinks like Ezra Pound put it in his sestina of peace the lie and war the words of the night horizontal and spacious the way New York is vertical and historical the way even Frisco with its baublelike pretension of necklace of hills is vertical with memory of long wars the earthquake even more recently now historical with a generation of lunatic beatific calligraphies imprinted on the longscroll of memory stretching from Kyoto to Columbus Avenue but the radiation comes from here from the literal wasteland made flesh the travesty of shantih shantih shantih the end of the middleclass the vivid end bottom asshole the middle-west dumping ground the western capital for poor white trash and black men fanged on their own purism and the middleeastern finish if one reads the pages of our leadly history from right to left from the Dead to the Pacific seas one long desert song

This is electric city and chick city and both breed a form of transmutation whose affluence ruins the irony of civilization leaves in its place the angry bitterness of a couple of disembodied eyes looking tenderly up from the bed while the mouth careens down and around a vortex of resentment shelled and fendered transistorized and erased of all wrinkles by a sun that blinds the mouth from conversation and makes dumb the eyes for the seeing of the nightmare of history in the face a sister hood of mothers a brotherhood of busted christs the rosy cross of the inner life of the fallen stars of the western world taking care taking care as they drive

But the space most of all that suburban patchwork isolation that fragmented collage of the mind the literal texture of Eliot's poem and Eisenstein's technique the lapped and overlapped dog walking the man or the woman out into the stutterless night air not a sign of a crutch or a beggar not a sound but of a cricket somehow out of place even when its in its place and all the scenery pointing beyond itself to the fiction of the morning light to that celluloidal sense that one has continually here that one is being taken being snapped being actioned from without the heart of our conspiratorial sense

Rooted in the fear and shudder of the notknowing who we are what is or should be intended where to move next along the freeways of the making of goals that are goalless when attained aims that are aimless when even the targets been hit uses that fall useless like Claes Oldenburgs soft typewriter surreal drippings of our slowly diminishing candles in the chancy night reaching out desperately for some occult system to hold to some old and yet new weltanschauung to talk back to fill with life somehow

We devoured the space and now it is devouring us with all the instruments of our own construction with headlines that in the isolation of our driving fears attack us from the depths of all the wars of our childhood and our grandfather's childhood revisited with televisionic uptights sending the mind on trips into the dream of a continual electric chair stationed in the asylum of a moviehouse where one might tune into ones own death with that laugh of the head that arrives full blossom in the mouth bursts passes into the fissures of the air and disappears without anything more than an ethereal trace but wakes up the gut the morning after with a sense of a brooding dark conspiracy of a gunmuzzle of an eyeball staring at one from the inside out everywhere in the world meaning nowhere upon which where one is fixed like an idea that came with a bag and a guitar and decided to stay

This is the territory of Sirhan Sirhan of yourself and myself the heart of It the snapped gutstring the photo play for keeps this space this woman for the space is the woman devouring known long before one picked up the I Ching to read that the ancient chinese knew the fact as well known for example in the mouth of Hitler to which the total lebensraum of the kidneys of Czechoslovakia the liver of Poland the heart of France the soul of Russia the cock of America had risen masculinefeminine in one hysterical screech of a doom ludicrous if it weren't the awfulest sort of demonia satirical of it did not ground the diamond eyes of satire itself into the ground piled with old lungs and bosoms that power that power gone to the head and out the mouth of the past that chthonic twist of germanic madness schism between the fjordic north and eroded stone of Greece schism of provincial fascism which is all that fascism is a yearning for some tribe or Klan outside the tribe of words paint or staves to justify some gang at the bottom in lieu of assuming

Which is all the rationale behind the assassination the rising masses the souped-up television sets the conspiracy of electrodes everywhere a fallen national pride and boredom sheer and clear boredom come from that space boredom of the deadened organs within boredom of the middleclass boredom turned over and reverted to the steps of Sarejevo the hills around Barcelona the wall at Jerusalem and the key villain and possible savior in it all nothing more or less than a twentieth century art form reeled off by a machine which can wipe away the rich pride that true memory when felt in the word can be and left a mottled picture and propagandistic history which makes solitude sullen and the disemboweled mind see a gun for a girl and shoot her at other men for television when it projects men of mind in America projects mistrust in the hearts of men bent under the yoke of Action as Work and the endocrinology of television speaking physiologically is to make a race of insects incapable of anything more than brother rat responses in the maze of their chicken wired hookup to a General Electric of dream

How in such a world where the batontwirling hypocrisies of political conventions south and north are carried out with the international knowledge in the heart of every still living soul that a woman's face in Viet Nam is being erased by the back of a bomb where the power nations have under the mass mediocratic eyes of their own communicative devices passed from absurdity to invidious and random gratuitousness punching bombs at the face of a land without regard for its true sex the true sex of the earth committing a massive rape and refusing to withdraw even though its juice is all gone and the cock of its imperialism has become a wooden dildo how then might the individual assassinator of Robert Kennedy or even if of some allegedly other political stream like the implied assassinator of Martin Luther King be declared guilty of more than what he already knows the prison made for him long before the bullets the bars behind which he probably has been more cared for than at any time the place half yearned for behind the loading of the gun just as it is now half yearned for by millions upon millions at the tote of the joint the physical prison that all the signs of individuality seem pointed toward submission after submission year after year to the machine of the free in quotes machine called America The World

Behind Sirhan Sirhan lay the spatial story of America stretching across the two historical bodies of water to the bloody crescent that was his and his fathers and his fathers fathers home and the difference is the difference between the fullblown hysterical cry of the curved swords of victory a joke of a sequence in a flickering newsreel to the contemporary American and juiced-down mind and that understated rapidtaptap of a serial machine of a music of diminished ego hanging on daily survival growing smaller with each confrontation with each pair

of eyes physically looked out over the shoulder of the car or on the dead empty boulevards growing immensely minute part of this amorphous plague tenderly called man en route to his messianic moment

So there was Kennedy coming at him closer and less imaginatively than if he had been reported on the radio that still permits dreaming Kennedy who stood for the power of the push further forward into the machine disintegration called uptight and unfeeling equality or democracy with the help of the movies and the power of Kennedy was of course only another lie another enlargement out of proportion in this negative darkroom for Kennedy stood in fact for the maintenance of the very fanaticity which killed him the liberation from people of all the names they attach to themselves but which in truth they love by an act of ascension via the almost feminine excitation of the masses which you will note immediately after the assassination became politically stilled because of course what the masses really wanted was his death by worship first by kissing his hand by a public adoration that of course really masks a peculiarly murderous instinct at the heart for when the provincial is excited he goes for the vengeance gun for all the bad wars and all the bad lays for all the fathers who copped out and all the boys betrayed and anarchy kisses the cheek of the superpatriot the excitement rising to the crescendo of a sequence at the end of a film like a sort of elmer ganttryism of the blood calling calling at the same time for something someone to sedate the damn thing to bring down the heights threatening to sear away with themselves to return the earth level Sirhan Sirhans alleged act brought to vivid conclusion the public occultism which in desperation for some excitement or mystery to fill their heads when in the heart of the drag of grass the god really said that it was a dull thud of a middleclass story all the way up and down practiced by so many inside and out of the popular shimsham music of another cycle of insipid popularity but rather than blow the top off it all it went and goes on Death I mean making the same demands on the psyche on the individual grooves of its record which never gets played to the crowd

And if a magical stand be taken if it be felt in the heart and mind of other yokels of Nothing that all their coins thrown over Chings and all their wild tarots were part of the conspiracy and Leo astral energy by astral energy to Sirhan Sirhans pulling of the trigger imagine THAT sort of terrifying consequence why well just have to vote Dixie in the fall if you can follow these vibrations for in time of war and this one is endless men lose their minds and fanatics come out of the cracks high and low and the university goes to sleep the stockmarket goes on a binge the street is all a bad French movie and the individual dog burrows deep in his hole with his words hoping nobody understands his permutations with pleasure rather than all the misunderstandings that have been misunderstood at the point of lethal pain

PAGE SEVEN



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Battle Due On Sirhan Notebook Evidence

A head-on clash between defense and prosecution in the case of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused as the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is forecast for next Tuesday when the two sides will argue suppression of part of the state's evidence.

At issue is the admissibility of several notebooks allegedly kept by Sirhan and seized from his room at the family home—696 E. Howard St., Pasadena.

According to Deputy Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, in charge of prosecuting Sirhan, he and defense counsel Russell D. Parsons are in disagreement not only on the law as to the evidential value of the diaries, but also as to the facts surrounding their seizure by police June 5.

At Parsons' request, Judge Herbert V. Walker, who is hearing pre-trial motions in the Sirhan case, delayed arguments on suppression yesterday at a court session which produced these developments:

● Postponement of the trial's opening until Dec. 9. The case will start then and recess around Dec. 23 until after the Christmas-New Year holiday.

● Granting of 120 items of prosecution evidence to the defense through a discovery proceeding—a legal maneuver which allows defense counsel to examine the prosecution's case in advance of the trial.

The same court session heard Compton announce that the district attorney's office was satisfied that Sirhan had no accomplices, and that there was no conspiracy in the Kennedy shooting.

As to the Sirhan diaries, or notebooks—Parsons insists that they were taken illegally because the police who searched the Sirhan home were not armed with a search warrant.

There is also disagreement over the manner in which the seizure was accomplished.

Compton will produce three police witnesses next week. Parsons also will call witnesses. One of the reasons for yesterday's delay was that a defense witness is out of the state and will not be available until next week.

At a June 6 news conference, Mayor Sam Yorty announced the seizure of the Sirhan diaries. The Mayor said one of them contained the sentence:

"Kennedy has to be assassinated before June 5, 1968"—the first anniversary of the six-day Israeli blitz in the Mideast.

At yesterday's session Deputy Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, an associate of Compton, turned over to Parsons the names and statements of 120 witnesses questioned by police and the FBI in the Kennedy assassination investigation.

These included 67 persons who allegedly saw Sirhan at the Ambassador Hotel the night of June 4, and witnessed his arrest following the shooting early June 5. The list included Speaker Jesse Unruh, Rafer Johnson, George Plimpton, Hugh McDonald, assistant press secretary to the slain senator, and several employees of the hotel.

Also turned over to Parsons were transcripts of recordings of six police interrogations of Sirhan made between his arrest and his arraignment about 8 a.m. June 5 in the court of Municipal Judge Joan Dempsey Kline.

At a news conference following yesterday's hearing, Parsons

took pains to point out that no attorney was present with Sirhan during these investigations.

He also said that there was, "serious doubt" that his client had been informed of his constitutional rights before these interrogations took place.

The discovery proceeding also raised the question of whether there had been violence during Sirhan's questioning. Parsons sought and got the statement of Officers Fred Willoughby and Eugene H. Austen, in response to a question about police who may have seen Sirhan kick a coffee cup out of Willoughby's hand.

Also sought and given the defense were the names and statements of 15 witnesses who allege to have seen Sirhan target shooting at the San Gabriel Valley Country club the day prior to Kennedy's shooting.

Given the defense, too, were the names and statements of four men of Arabic surname who allegedly spent time with Sirhan prior to the Kennedy shooting.

In deciding on postponement of the trial, Judge Walker made it clear that he intends to sequester the jury—that is, order them locked up during the trial.

He said jury selection would begin Dec. 9 and continue through Dec. 23, at which time he will recess the trial for the holidays.

The jurors will not be sworn until following the recess, Judge Walker said, but after they are sworn they will be locked up.

Purpose of the sequestering is to make certain jurors see no publicity on the case which might prejudice their verdict.

Judge Walker said the press had been very cooperative in the case so far, but, he concluded:

"There is a responsible press and an irresponsible press, and I can't control either one of them, and I wouldn't want to try."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Dec. 9 Hearing Set**Sirhan Conspiracy Ruled Out**

By United Press International

A comprehensive investigation of the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has turned up no evidence of a conspiracy or any suspect other than Sirhan B. Sirhan.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton made the disclosure Monday during a hearing which set a new date of Dec. 9 for the start of Sirhan's trial on charges he killed Kennedy

and wounded five other persons last June 5.

Compton said after examining 111 statements by prospective witnesses, the transcripts of six interviews with Sirhan, and a report of the handling of the suspect just after his arrest, that all information dealing with other possible suspects "is negative and of little value to anyone."

In producing the testimony, Compton said he "would like

the record to show that our investigation has produced no other possible suspects or evidence of conspiracy in the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy."

Defense attorney Russell E. Parsons appeared to agree with Compton's conclusion.

"We have seen no evidence of a conspiracy," he told newsmen after the hearing.

The session was the longest of Sirhan's seven court appearances. The jockey-sized Jordanian immigrant appeared pale and nervous, constantly

shivering in his chair and biting his fingernails. Parsons said his client was becoming increasingly "nervous" as the trial date drew near.

Parsons told the news conference later that "a nationally prominent New York attorney" will later join the defense in addition to another Los Angeles lawyer currently involved in another case. Parsons refused to identify either attorney, but said they will serve without fee.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker indicated the jury will be sequestered—locked up nightly—during the trial, although he will make a formal ruling on the matter later. Sequestering of the jury is favored by the defense, opposed by the prosecution.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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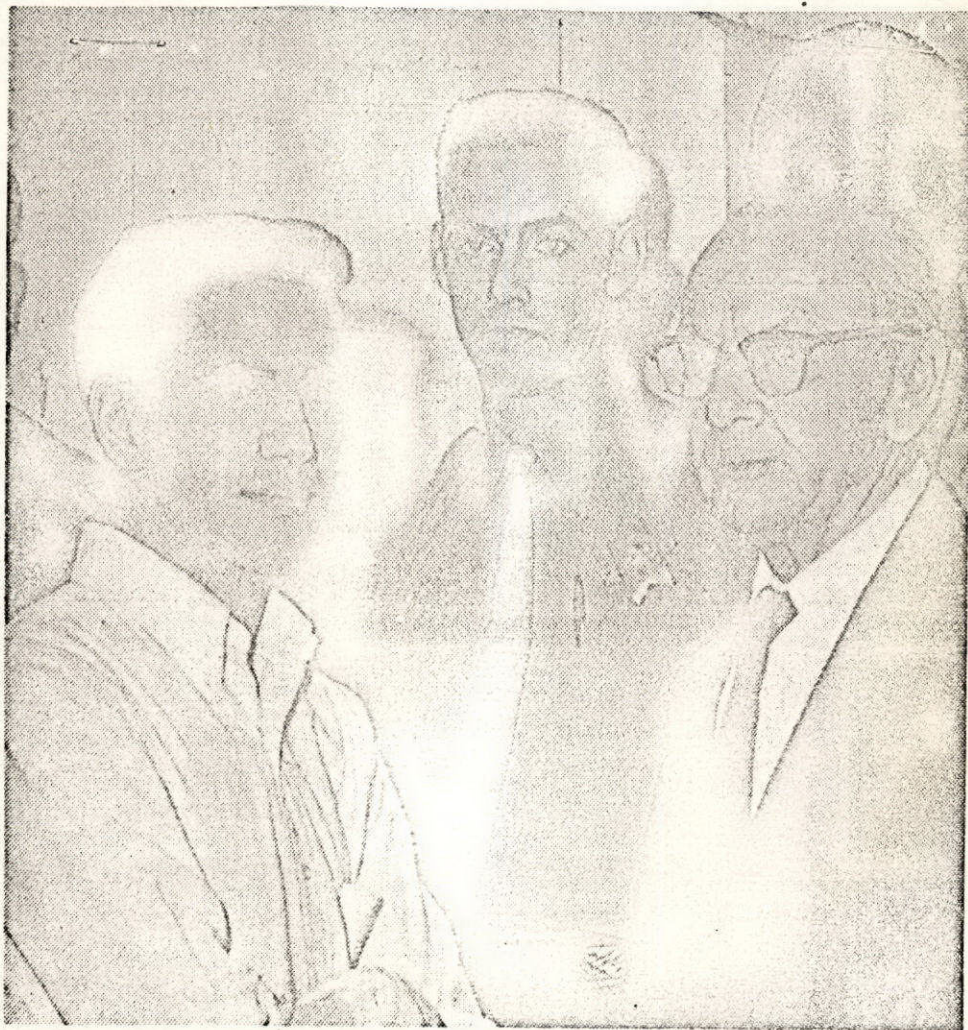
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Sirhan Trial Date Set

Sirhan B. Sirhan, 24, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, is shown with his attorney, Russell Parsons, Monday shortly before his seventh court appearance in Los Angeles Superior Court. At the hearing, trial date was set for Dec. 9.

—UPI Telephoto

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Alone

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan will be tried next Dec. 9 for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and he will face the charges alone.

Tuesday, both the prosecution and Sirhan's own attorney, Russell E. Parsons, ruled out conspiracy when Kennedy was shot and killed and five others were wounded at the Ambassador last June 5.

During the pretrial session, called by Parsons to delay a trial date that had been tentatively set for Nov. 1, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton turned over to Parsons statements by 111 prospective witnesses and other material that included transcripts of six interviews with Sirhan following the arrest of the Jordanian immigrant on murder charges.

Data on Others

At the same time, Compton told Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker that he believed all information relating to other possible suspects is "negative and of little value." The move marked the first clear indication from the prosecution that it does not believe any conspiracy was involved.

Parsons agreed he has seen no evidence of a conspiracy and said he will be joined in Sirhan's defense by two other lawyers. He refused to name them, but it was learned that one will be Emile Zola Berman, a New York attorney who gained national fame in 1956 when he defended Marine Staff Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon against charges of manslaughter, oppression and drinking on duty in a court-martial case at the Parris Island, S.C., Marine Base.

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L.A. Weekend... Development In The Case of Sirhan

Another development in the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused as the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, coupled with the arrest of a Montreal man charged with the murder of a Hollywood registered nurse, headline the news in Southern California this weekend.

There were also at least two deaths, one on the highway, and one resulting from a knife fight.

Sirhan will return to his armored courtroom Tuesday for pre-trial rulings on suppressing diaries taken from Sirhan's home.

Judge Herbert V. Walker will be asked to suppress from evidence diaries allegedly kept by Sirhan, including the notation that Kennedy must be killed before June 5, anniversary of the six-day Arab-Israeli war. Kennedy was shot early June 5.

Sirhan's attorney, Russell E. Parsons, has asked that the diaries be kept out of the trial on grounds they were improperly taken from Sirhan's home after his arrest.

Mayor Sam Yorty revealed the contents of the diaries in a press conference before Sirhan was indicted by the Grand Jury June 7.

Judge Walker last week set Dec. 9 as the opening date for selection of a jury to hear the Sirhan trial. He said he would recess the sessions Dec. 23 for the Christmas holidays and resume proceedings Jan. 2.

motion to suppress evidence
pre-trial ruling

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Bar on Evidence Seized in Sirhan's Room to Be Asked

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

The attorney for Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused of the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, is scheduled to seek a court order today to bar the prosecution from using any evidence seized during a search of his client's room several hours after the June 5 slaying.

Russell E. Parsons, in a brief filed with Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, contends investigating officers failed to obtain a search warrant before rummaging through Sirhan's belongings in his mother's Pasadena home.

Although he was not specific in what he seeks to have suppressed, Parsons said the police took books, pamphlets, notebooks and assorted writings of Sirhan's, all of which, he charged, would be prejudicial.

Arrested at Hotel

Only searches made with a warrant are permitted, Parsons said, unless they are made incidental to an arrest. The lawyer pointed out that Sirhan was taken into custody at the Ambassador Hotel, scene of the shootings, not at home.

Exploratory searches, such as was the case of Sirhan's house, according to Parsons, are unlawful and he claims that any evidence obtained in that manner is inadmissible.

The law would appear to be on Parson's side, but Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton said he and Dep. Dist. Attys. John E. Howard and David N. Fitts still will call several officers as witnesses to tell of the events leading up to and the actual search of Sirhan's room.

The hearing again will be conducted in a special courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice.

Sirhan, 24, is scheduled to face trial Dec. 9.

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Sirhan News Curbs Go to High Court

Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger has asked the U. S. Supreme Court to rule on the legality of the restrictive publicity order issued in connection with the Sirhan B. Sirhan prosecution.

The order forbids police and public officials to issue statements concerning their investigations and findings except in the courtroom.

His earlier appeal to have the publicity order rescinded has been denied by the State Court of Appeal and the State Supreme Court. Neither court has given a reason for the denials.

Younger contends the court order should be overturned because of the length of time it will take for the trial and possible conviction of Sirhan to become final.

Younger pointed out yesterday that if Sirhan is sentenced to death, there is an automatic appeal and no one would be able to talk of the case until this is ruled on, which could be several years.

"The public has the right to know certain information concerning the possibility of conspiracy and other things which we have but are denied from releasing because of the court-imposed restriction," Younger said.

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SIRHAN'S DIARIES: BIG ROLE IN TRIAL

Defeated in his attempt to have Sirhan B. Sirhan's diaries suppressed as evidence, Defense Counsel Russell Parsons has indicated he intends to use the diaries to illustrate Sirhan's mental state at the time of the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Yesterday, Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker turned down a defense plea that notebooks allegedly kept by Sirhan at his home, 696 E. Howard St., Pasadena, and seized by police without a search warrant, be suppressed as evidence in the case.

At a news conference immediately following Judge Walker's verdict, Parsons, commenting on the notebooks, said:

"I don't know what effect these writings might have on the opinions of the psychiatrist in the case."

He said that the diaries might have great effect in determining the psychiatrists' opinion of Sirhan's mental state at the time he is alleged to have shot Sen. Kennedy.

Parsons disclosed that two of three court-appointed defense psychiatrists had examined the diaries and reported on them to him.

Parsons also disclosed that psychiatrists—who he declined to identify—were present in the courtroom ostensibly observing the defendant at every stage of the proceedings.

Chief Prosecutor Lynn D. Compton called Judge Walker's search, the essential question at ruling a "significant" victory for the prosecution.

Issue in yesterday's hearing was a defense request that three notebooks and other documents taken by police from Sirhan's bedroom the morning of Kennedy's murder be stricken from evidence.

Judge Walker declined to accede to the suppression, but, in rendering his decision, he made it clear that he was not ruling on their admissibility as evidence. This will be argued at the trial.

Documents involved are:

- Two buff-bound looseleaf notebooks.

- A small brown spiral-ring notebook.

- A U.S. Treasury Department envelope which allegedly bears Sirhan's scribbles.

- A film strip showing Sirhan in three poses.

- A torn piece of cardboard, allegedly found hidden beneath a cushion and bearing Sirhan's handwriting.

- Sirhan's honorable discharge from the "California State Cadet Corps."

- A live, damaged .22 caliber cartridge.

- Business cards of physicians Paul Nilssen and E. Gordon Kiehn.

- Boxes of gun cleaning pads and nitro powder solvent.

Los Angeles Police Sgt. William Brandt testified yesterday that all of the above items were found when Sirhan's bedroom was searched.

While prosecutors conceded police had no warrant for the search, the essential question at yesterday's hearing was whether, even without the warrants, Sirhan's permission to enter and search the house gave the officers reasonable grounds for what they did.

In effect, Judge Walker decreed that the grounds were reasonable.

The jurist ruled after hearing testimony from both police and members of the Sirhan family.

Sgt. Brandt and Officer Dante Lodolo testified that they had obtained permission from both Adel Sirhan and Munir Sirhan, brothers of the defendant, for the search.

They admitted they had not asked permission of Mrs. Mary Sirhan, owner of the E. Howard Street home and mother of the defendant, but maintained that they had not because the brothers had asked them not to question their mother.

Munir Sirhan denied, on the witness stand, that he had acceded to the search.

Mrs. Sirhan swore that so far as she was concerned police had no authorization for their search, and that her son, Adel, did not have her permission to allow it.

Arguing for the prosecution, Compton insisted that the search was justified because following his arrest Sirhan refused to identify himself to talk to police.

(Moments after Kennedy's shooting, Sirhan, a smoking .22 caliber pistol allegedly clutched tightly in his right hand, was apprehended. He declined to identify himself and was finally identified when one of his brothers went to Pasadena police to say that he believed that the man in custody was his brother.)

At no point in yesterday's proceedings was the content of the diaries discussed.

All that is known about them was disclosed by Mayor Sam Yorty, at a news conference which subsequently brought him considerable criticism, said that in his opinion the diary showed that Sirhan was "inflamed" by Communist influences.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Motion to suppress evidence denied
re: Herald Examiner
10-23-68

Date: 10/23/68
Edition: Night Final
Author:
Editor: Donald Goodenow
Title: KENSALT

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The mayor also revealed that one sentence in the seized documents said, "Kennedy must be killed by June 5"—the first anniversary of the six-day Arab-Israeli war in 1967.

Kennedy was shot early the morning of June 5.

At his news conference, Parsons said now that Judge Walker had ruled, he and his staff again would examine the diaries to determine Sirhan's mental state at the time of the assassination.

"They may be helpful in the end," the defense lawyer said.

Asked his client's reaction to the decision, Parsons replied:

"He realizes this was a serious motion . . ."

But, said Parsons, Sirhan also realizes that the decision is not a final settlement of the notebook question.

Sirhan appeared more nervous yesterday than he had been at any of the preceeding hearings in the case.

He squirmed a great deal in his seat and continually whispered in his attorney's ear.



—UPI Telephoto

MRS. SIRHAN, HER SON ADEL LEAVE COURT AFTER HEARING
—Mother of accused man said she didn't give permission for search—

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Attempt to Bar Seized Sirhan Papers Defeated

Motion to Suppress Notes Taken Without Warrant Is Denied

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan's lawyer failed Tuesday in his attempt to bar the prosecution from using material seized from the suspect's home on June 5, 10 hours after he allegedly shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's ruling denying a motion by attorney Russell E. Parsons to suppress the material paves the way for prosecutors to use a notebook found in the defendant's Pasadena home which reportedly contains the written notation:

"Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5, 1968."

A press conference followed the nearly two-hour session in a make-shift courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice.

At it, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton said he and coprosecutors John E. Howard and David N. Fitts would use whichever of those documents (taken from Sirhan's home) they decide are helpful and relevant to the case.

Asked if he felt that the memo relating to the assassination of Sen. Kennedy fell into that category, Compton replied:

"That would be a significant piece of evidence."

No Warrant Existed

Compton used the same word—significant—to describe Judge Walker's decision and he said he was "happy" the jurist held that police had reasonable cause to search Sirhan's room, although they did not have a warrant.

In making his ruling, Judge Walker passed only on the issue of whether the material was lawfully obtained, not on whether it later will be admitted into evidence if the prosecution attempts to do so.

Some of the items, Compton conceded, might not be relevant or material to the case.

Parsons, though he battled to keep Sirhan's writings out of evidence, did not seem to be unhappy with Judge Walker's decision.

"A very competent judge did not agree with us (that there was an unlawful search and seizure)," he said. "But sometimes when a judge rules against you it becomes helpful."

Parsons explained that "our attention might now be directed to a more careful search and study of why these things were said and done," apparently referring to the writings and the shooting of Sen. Kennedy.

The notebooks and other material found in Sirhan's room, he added, "may indicate something" about his client to psychiatrists.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Editor: Nick B. Williams

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Emotional Stability Factor

Parsons would not elaborate but it is understood that some of Sirhan's notations might be of the type which would tend to reflect on the 24-year-old defendant's emotional stability.

Parsons said he did not intend to appeal the judge's ruling "because that would delay the trial," which now is set for Dec. 9.

During the hearing on whether Sirhan's belongings were legally seized, Sirhan's older brother, Adel, 30, testified that he gave police permission to search the room of the accused assassin.

Called as a defense witness, Adel said that after telling investigating officers he had nothing to hide, he consented to their request to search his brother's room.

He said he pointed out to them, however, that it was his mother's home, but that he preferred that they not contact her because she didn't know at the time of her son's involvement.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, following her smartly dressed and well-groomed son to the witness stand, adamantly declared that she never gave anyone permission to search the defendant's room.

"I never was asked," she explained.

Mrs. Sirhan also said she did not give Adel permission to allow the search of Sirhan's room in the family home at 696 E. Howard St.

At Work in School

The woman said she was at work at a church-sponsored nursery school in Pasadena at the time of the 10:30 a.m. search and did not learn of her son's involvement in the case until sometime between noon and 1 p.m. that day—or about 12 hours after the shooting.

The slender defendant

again appeared to enjoy his stay in the courtroom, although at times he showed some nervousness. He smiled frequently and seemed particularly pleased as Parsons cross-examined two prosecution witnesses, both police officers.

During Adel Sirhan's testimony it was revealed that he may have been the one who supplied the positive identification that his brother was the one who shot Sen. Kennedy.

He said a younger brother, Munir, 21, had gone to work the morning of June 5 and saw a picture of Sirhan in the newspaper.

Munir immediately went home and woke up Adel, the witness said, and told him of the picture he had seen. The two of them then went to a newsstand and purchased a paper.

"The picture of the assassin was on the front page . . . it was him (referring to the defendant)," Adel said.

Adel told of going immediately to the Pasadena Police Department and arriving about 9:15 a.m. He said he told officers there that the person in the picture was his brother, Sirhan.

Adel's arrival at the Police Department followed by only one hour Sirhan's arraignment in court where he declined to reveal his identity.

At that time, he said his name was "John Doe."

Adel said he was interviewed by two Los Angeles police officers and an FBI

agent, told them that the assassination suspect was his brother and gave them permission to search Sirhan's room.

Muir testified that he did not give officers permission to search his brother's room.

Sgt. William E. Brandt, testifying as a prosecution witness, said he conducted the search only after obtaining Adel's consent.

He identified all the items taken. He said they later were booked as evidence and then turned over to the FBI.

Sgt. Brandt said the reason the search was made was to uncover any evidence of a possible conspiracy in the shooting of Sen. Kennedy.

"We were interested in evidence of a possible conspiracy and of any other persons who might be involved," he explained.

His partner in the investigation, Dante A. Lodolo, also testified that Adel gave his permission to search Sirhan's room.

As the court session began Tuesday, Compton stipulated that police did not have a search warrant and that at the time of the search Sirhan had not yet identified himself.

Meanwhile, Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger disclosed that he has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court for a review of the June 7 court order restricting publicity in the case.

At the press conference, Compton said he hopes the highest court will act as quickly as possible on Younger's request.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Trial: Another Delay?

A New Delay For Sirhan?

Possibility of new pre-trial motions and perhaps even further delay in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial has been raised by Sirhan's attorney, Russell Parsons.

In an interview with The Herald-Examiner, Parsons said that evidence turned over to the defense by the District Attorney's office under an order from Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker could provide the basis for new preliminary maneuvers in the case of the man accused as the slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

As to the delay, Parsons said he was concerned that the attorney who will join him in the case might not be ready when the case is scheduled to go to trial Dec. 9.

But the defense counsel indicated that he probably would not seek delay for any other reason.

Parsons pointed out that if he wished to do so he could delay the trial by appealing Judge Walker's order of Tuesday in which the jurist refused to suppress the evidence against Sirhan in diaries and notebooks taken from the accused's home at 696 E. Howard St., Pasadena, after Kennedy was fatally shot in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel.

Parsons had maintained that the evidence should be suppressed because the police had no search warrant when they entered the Sirhan home and seized the evidence.

Judge Walker refused to suppress, but said he would rule on the admissibility of the evidence at the time of the trial.

Parsons has the option of appealing Tuesday's ruling, but he said he would not do that, but instead argue the issue again during the trial.

Parsons declined under the new publicity ruling in the case, to speculate on what additional pre-trial motions he might have in mind.

He said he and his staff were spending many hundreds of hours studying the prosecution's case and that this study could lead to some future motions.

One place where it is known that prosecution and defense are in basic disagreement as to the validity of evidence is in the matter of six police statements taken from Sirhan following his arrest in the Ambassador kitchen and prior to his arraignment for Kennedy's shooting the morning of June 5.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan News Curb Goes to High Court

WASHINGTON (AP)—Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger Thursday asked the Supreme Court to review a court order limiting news accounts about the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Younger's petition said the order by Superior Judge Richard Schauer restricting dissemination of information is an unconstitutional suppression of First Amendment rights. He said it should be reversed to prevent irresponsible rumors in the future that Sirhan was not justly tried.

Sirhan, 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant, faces trial Dec. 9 on a charge he murdered Kennedy.

Judge Schauer prohibited attorneys connected with the case and all public officials having information about it from releasing to the public any statement by Sirhan that does not come up at trial. The attorneys and officials were forbidden also to express publicly outside of court any opinion on evidence or to comment on prospective witnesses or probable testimony.

Younger contended the local court has gone too far in abridging free speech and free press rights as it sought to protect Sirhan's right to a trial free of undue publicity.

The district attorney said the order increases the danger of irresponsible attacks similar to those directed at the Warren Commission's investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"The only feasible way to meet this danger of false charges and rumors is to allow responsible public officials to indicate, on occasion, why certain witnesses have not been used, or how certain leads have proven false or irrelevant," Younger said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
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SIRHAN
BISHARA
SIRHAN



(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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A. O. Richards	

by JACK HIRSCHMAN

The face displaced by the camera eye the journey known in the gut of every fanatic which is to say American victim of the vengeance screen of television and the duplicity of Pop the awful paranoid seasons of the blood turned into zodiacs of selflaceration great deserts of fear in which one walks alone clutching the straws of gigantic hieroglyphic books the literature of the land of Naught and where the plots of gardens outside the skull are equalled by the furious plots permitted out of long desolation and realms of the distances of contempt to be daily fashioned within the mixed bag of desperations black white and tan

And a poet come from New York when I asked her what she thought was behind the ass ass I Nation said promptly a rightwing conspiracy and a thunder of falling Chings buddhist texts kabbalas blavatskys and lastditch siddharthas piled up in the imagination before the outstretched match for it would take me all of these and a couple of centuries as well to explain that cruelty peculiar to our moment that whichwaywhat of the currents of darkness that rightleft and middle that black white and tan all are integers of selfdefeat all are causes of an inner mumbling to oneself a grumbling against the daily predicament made into the revolution of free men utterly impotent because they wanted the power of their picture in the papers Kennedy and Sirhan Sirhan both in a land which everyday makes one feel alien free and easy in death

One saw finally his picture in the papers in a white-shirt he was surrounded by the sullenoid and defeated faces of the cops his whole countenance turned to the camera which began his infinite regression a paranoidal glee a gaiety almost as of someone cleared of a heavy burden but most of all the smile the smile of yes say it Cheese for the land whose

true story is written in the travesty and betrayal of moving pictures mama was always going to on boring days and nights until finally they chopped up the bars and installed television in the homes for such a land what higher goal for a young man then either to be president or the assassinator of a candidate what more exciting audience to witness one's execration Estranger imagine the whole world tuning in to your martyrdom your judgement your punishment Oh cruel land which shoots the veins full of the lies that Care lies here But yes it does But yes it does but dead

Yet his is the face the poor inner cheekbones of our psyche know for the gypsy look of the defeated the isolated potential and more than know for the act of one declared in this criminally ridden land to be a criminal act is the act deserving our deepest inner emotion who are taught early by the flickers to find solace for our in fact physical passivity in machines in war in murder except that with this act of a couple of months ago there was a difference

It was essential that the journey be made with McCarthy and Kennedy projecting an image of Two men giving the illusion of being somehow after all brothers in the Greek that is New Testamental sense of the word essential because they could spell one another coming together at this point fending each other at that giving I say the illusion of a fraternity necessary to accommodate the inner schizophrenia of both men and women in a land making split and infinite wars all over the planet back of which lay the racist nightmare for white America where a seemingly singleminded power not actually anything more than another image projection across the boards of our brainwashed theaterscreens offered up what is to most the frightening horrors of the Night we have never learned to live in

Sirhan Sirhan had become meanwhile Conged with conspiracy not very different from thousands even millions all over with fists raised either outwardly at demonstrations or inwardly in spacedout rooms all over the suburban complex of the halfassed affluence of the American technocratic war Conged I say with a moral righteousness gone berserk along the kanals of his inner dribblings Conged with regress and the feeling of feeling faint of vanishing into the thin and chokingly tightened air of the fascism of smog Conged left and right Conged into the fiction of the middle which grew fast and furious with vengeance salted by the electric news attacks on television the tall black headlines of the Los Angeles Times which for example the day after John F. Kennedy's death ran a headline saying ASSASSINATE KENNEDY more that is a command for the future than a report of the past so Conged also by an individual boredom that reaches out everywhere for the machine's inspiration to get plugged in to take one's place in this network of criminal voltage destined to security the whole earth or itself be electro shocked

For dying is our excitement and justice our fixed idea and even as the body of the brother Kennedy was being given its Lincolnian journey home to lie near his brother as endless metaphor of the almost Greek destiny of America the archbishopric ceremonies finished the small towns of the face come through the technocratic skin to pay passing homage to the reverberation a centennial old story even then they eyes were beginning to be turned in the direction of the real meat of the land the law and its justice as Kennedy had passed into the systems of the bloods compassion had crossed the boards or the screen of our popular devilishness so now there would be the merciless other side of this cold blooded frontier psyche the trial of a man who also loved himself being snapped who also was reared with a helplessly barraged consciousness Video man with a crucial mistrust of dialogue at the same paradoxical moment he expresses himself articulately cool hip arabian paranoia containing the mass of electric uptightness dished out by the Federal Box driving one to commit the revolution of revolutions the transcendence of his family to die into stardom at the point of a gun to mount the father and mother and surmount them in that apocalyptically vivid region called the light of show business which creates that awful benignity in death that rises above ALL minorities for murder had become the only way to crash into heaven in a land gone to pot with the belief that reality was in the moving pictures

And there is this other side of the buffalo nickel which has to do with the perpetuation of The Boys you see the story of America is charted in relation to the street-comer in the dirtypictured and blasphemous-bottom of all our lives where on the other hand the true and genuine excitement of camaraderie first was generated in the provincial Bronx and Brooklyn smalltown drugstore or poolroom with its hustles and kidnifty vengeances vendettas we grew up and away from only to be hammered back to in the stud stunning Thirties [Twenties for most of the young ones now] where we either stay put fighting wars of words and lovely lunatics crossing our thresholds or take the escalator to the Powerhouse and its dull thuds and thugs anyway will get you dead because everybody's just wild about Hitler and wants it from both sides like that madman asked for The Ladies Russia and America to finish his sick christ off because he had lost his senses

Who was it McLuhan who said via mixed mass media any yokel could become the center of the universe tune into the totematic hardcore of death become naturally methadrinal fill the blood with erections and the erections with bullets instead of sperm which has less and less natural outlet this that and those are the ingredients of the so-called conspiracy the running blood-stream of vengeance behind the mummymasks of all assassins

Yet the second Kennedy assassination the Other Kennedy the failure of the possibility of maintaining a high level mythology with so to speak the brother resurrecting the dead brother in the flesh marks the end of a cycle of muscular and even aristocratic virulence including John F. Kennedy Martin Luther King and lesser known but even more poetic lights like Malcolm X leaving the horizon strangely empty and returned to the dull greys the crushing middle which is that provincial fascist in us all yearning for that old gang of slipping into and out the professional suit playing the sort of chessgame of death knowing one is helping an evil cause and a mind turned against itself which is on both counts America but she is the only land today which makes one mad and in that madness lies the seeds of a battle against its idolatrous moving pictured anonymity which threatens to publicize everything and so render privacy empty at which point The Machinery of the State has won

Now chillin I shall tell a little story upon returning to America in the summer of 1967 I found myself at the home of a dear friend Yehuda Tarnu in the midst of that same Israeli-Egyptian war which seems to have torn Sirhan Sirhan's natural paranoid gall to shreds and at one point in the reports and for a thousand other reasons as well but when I heard that six Indians were killed in the war I took a swing at my friend later wrote of it in a posteroem published in London in which I wrote that "I am the guilty arab with Christian leanings born in The Bronx who struck Yehuda this morning the body politic is all screwed up whose east west and middle have erupted on my chin" which is to say many things but most of all to indicate that my friendship with this man continues and I ask you listen closely to this dig in and listen continues not because of Jew or Arab American or Russian Chinese or Cuban German or French but because of a force that stands between them uniting through all distances and rather than be occult and mysterious let me take you downtown New York City on the Cuba to Capetown express as we used to call the subway full of the dark peoples of the new world on a day shortly after the end of World War II when coming up out of the subway I must have been puberty years old I saw the headlines announcing the assassination of Ghandi which I insist was the start of my own involvement with the world an event returned to ever and over for after that death all men were definitely twained like the split skull of Berlin and must needs see the murderer and the murdered as one man through whom the transmigration of the breath of the shantih shantih shantih of ashes blown from the Ganges must spark with forgiveness all the way west here

[Part 2 of "Sirhan Sirhan" will run in "Open City" next week.]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Soviet Journalist Links Sirhan, 'Mad' L.A. Tempo

MOSCOW (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan was only one "phenomenon" of Los Angeles which Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen Robert Kennedy, spent 11 impressed journalist Stanislav Kondrashov, who won the Vahrosky prize of the Soviet Union of Journalists in 1967—the Soviet version of a Pulitzer Prize—for a series of the Eastern United States. po penetrated Sirhan Sirhan's blood," a Soviet journalist has suggested.

Other cities take on the image of man, Kondrashov wrote in a three-part series on Los Angeles. "Los Angeles is taking on the image of an automobile."

The series appeared in the government newspaper Izvestia. Automobiles and armaments fascinated Kondrashov. "The city works for the freeways," he wrote. "Two victims are clean air and public transport, murdered by freeways and private cars which care for individuals at the cost of collective social needs."

Automobiles "tear down the traditional family relationship." The Negroes in Watts suffer the poverty - ignorance - unemployment cycle because "without effective public transport they are immobilized in a search for jobs."

"An American in Los Angeles has a Catholic marriage with his car—divorce is impossible."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3 Herald-Examiner
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County's Costs in Sirhan Case Reach Total of \$285,949

Cost of investigating and prosecuting Sirhan B. Sirhan reached \$285,949 by Sept. 30, County Auditor-Controller Mark H. Bloodgood reported Thursday.

Bloodgood informed Supervisor Kenneth Hahn that the costs for six county departments were: chief medical examiner-coroner, \$6,013; district attorney, \$76,943; mechanical, \$37,317; public defender, \$2,864; sheriff, \$140,462, and courts, \$2,350.

In a different breakdown, Bloodgood listed normal departmental operating costs charged to the Sirhan case, \$104,262; general county overhead, \$36,051, and extraordinary costs, \$145,636.

The extraordinary costs include overtime pay in the Sheriff's Department and chief medical examiner-coroner's office, alterations in the Hall of Justice and Central Men's Jail, travel expenses, special equipment and expert witness services for prosecution of the accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

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II-1 Los Angeles Times
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January Trial Date Indicated in Sirhan Case

**Defendant Due in Court
Next Week; TV Hookup
to Help Press Planned**

BY RON EINSTOSS
Times Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan's trial, scheduled for Dec. 9, probably will be postponed until after the first of the year, it was indicated Monday.

Preparations are under way to bring the 24-year-old alleged slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy into court sometime next week so the defense can request a continuance.

The reason reportedly is that more time is needed to prepare the case. It is anticipated that the new trial date will be in early January, probably the day after New Year's Day.

Closed Circuit TV

During the same court appearance by Sirhan, Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker is expected to reveal that arrangements have been completed for press coverage of the trial, including the use of closed circuit television.

It reportedly would mark the first time in California judicial history that court proceedings would be televised in any way, even though the only audience will be accredited members of the press.

Closed circuit television will be used so a greater number of news media representatives can be accommodated.

Judge Walker refused to discuss the planned television coverage, saying it would be premature to do so. But he did disclose that "well over 100" requests for courtroom seats had been received "from throughout the world."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Present plans, it is understood, call for setting aside 35 of the courtroom's 75 seats for the press. The remaining news media representatives will be able to view on television the proceedings in a "court room annex" on the fourth floor of the Hall of Justice.

Most of the 40 courtroom seats not set aside for the press will be allotted to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Some will be occupied by members of Sirhan's family and security officers.

Everything which transpires in Judge Walker's eighth-floor courtroom—both sight and sound—will go into the secondary court, with one exception.

The automatic camera, which is to be concealed in a false air-conditioning unit, will not show the jury.

Series of Meetings

The television circuit was arranged following a series of meetings between the court and the California Freedom of Information Committee, sponsored by Sigma Delta Chi, national professional journalism society.

That committee represents most of the news media in the state.

Such televised coverage—actually electronic monitoring—is not prohibited by rules established for California courts—only actual broadcasting (to the public) is.

A priority system for courtroom seats, based on the location of the individual news media (local, state, national or international) plus the coverage it is able to provide, has been established, according to court officials.

Requests for accreditation to cover the trial have come from newspapers, magazines, television and radio.

There will be full security, Judge Walker said, both in the area of his court and the auxiliary courtroom. All security will continue to be handled by the sheriff's office in cooperation with the court.

The only major alteration in the

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A.O. Richards
ask Howard about
Wine & other

trial court will be large steel plates, already installed, over the windows. They will be painted and covered with curtains, it is understood.

Sirhan's appearance next week again will be in the special courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice. The regular courtroom will not be used until the trial begins.

The trial is expected to last about two months.

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton and Dep. Dist. Attys. John E. Howard and David N. Pitts announced that they intend to call about 90 witnesses.

It also has been indicated that they will seek the death penalty for Sirhan.

Sirhan's attorney, Russell E. Parsons, has said in the past that he will be joined by two other lawyers, but he has refused to identify them.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ANOTHER DELAY IN SIRHAN TRIAL?

Russell E. Parsons, attorney for Sirhan B. Sirhan, has formally notified Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker that he will seek a continuance for his client's trial until after the Yuletide holidays.

Sirhan is accused of slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel in the early morning of June 5.

Parsons informed the judge yesterday of his intentions in a short, written motion.

The continuation of the trial, which is set for Dec. 9, has been expected because Parsons has contended he wants a second lawyer to aid him in the defense. The second lawyer has not been named, presumably because he is involved in another trial.

Parsons specifically asked that he be allowed to come to court and make a motion to continue the trial to "some date after Jan. 2, 1969."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

cc to BU
11/29/68

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

END OF FRIARS TRIAL FREES HIM**Grant Cooper to Join in Defending Sirhan**

Attorney Grant B. Cooper, prominent Los Angeles criminal lawyer, will join the defense of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, it now can be revealed.

Cooper, a veteran of some of Los Angeles' most publicized criminal trials, actually agreed to participate in Sirhan's defense last June, within two weeks after Sen. Kennedy was shot at the Ambassador.

But Cooper was then just beginning the defense of developer Maurice H. Friedman in the Friars Club card cheating conspiracy case. No one then expected that the federal court trial, which ended Monday, would last nearly six months.

Cooper feared that if his association with the Sirhan case came to the attention of jurors in the Friedman trial, it might be prejudicial to Friedman. It might even have caused a mistrial.

He told a few confidants that he was in the Sirhan case, but promised that if the news leaked out he would have to deny it. He was true to his word when, on June 27, a wire service let the cat out of the bag.

"Definitely, positively, unequivocally no," Cooper said in a statement to The Times at that time.

Cooper's entry into the case came about largely through the efforts of A. L. Wirin, chief counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

Sirhan originally was represented by the public defender. However, he let it be known through Wirin that he wanted to have private attorneys.

Wirin himself felt that, although the ability of the public defender's office was unquestioned, attorneys with public stature should be obtained.

He failed in efforts to have attorneys appointed by the court or named by the County Bar Assn. Wirin then took it upon himself to seek out lawyers willing to serve without recompense, and Cooper was one of those who agreed.

Cooper said Monday that he

received a letter from Sirhan within a few days after his arrest.

"He asked me to appear as his counsel," the attorney related. "I consulted with my client (Friedman), who said he had no objection as long as it was not made known before the verdict came in."

Cooper said he hopes to see Sirhan for the first time today.

When Sirhan's choice of an attorney was announced on June 19, only the name of Russell E. Parsons, one of Southern California's best known appeals lawyers, was made public.

Parsons revealed that he would be joined later by "a prominent man who has handled many prominent cases" but who was then representing another client in court.

It was learned later that attorney Emile Zola Berman of New York, who attained a national reputation by defending a marine sergeant against manslaughter charges when six servicemen marched to their deaths in a tidal marsh, also would join the Sirhan defense.

Parsons obtained one postponement of Sirhan's trial from Nov. 1 to Dec. 9 because the "mystery attorney" who was to join the defense was still engaged in federal court.

But Parsons was seen visiting Cooper several times during recesses of the Friars Club trial, presumably keeping him up to date on developments in the Sirhan case.

Cooper told confidants, however, that he had not even consulted with Sirhan or members of his family. And he made it clear he would not be ready to go to trial until after the first of the year.

He and Parsons are expected to appear within the next few days before Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker to request another postponement so that Cooper may prepare for the trial.

It is anticipated that Judge Walker will grant the postponement, probably until Jan. 6.

Cooper, 65, has served as president of the Los Angeles County Bar Assn., president of the American College of Trial Lawyers and vice president of the State Bar of California. He has practiced law in California since 1927.

He first gained a reputation as a tough prosecutor while in the district attorney's office from 1929 to 1935. He returned to that office as the chief deputy to the late Dist. Atty. John Dockweiler from 1940 to 1942.

But Cooper gained his greatest fame as a criminal defense lawyer over the last 20 years, particularly in murder cases. Although he rarely wins acquittals, he usually manages to get

hung juries or reduced charges.

The most famous was his defense of Dr. R. Bernard Finch, tried three times with Carole Tregoff for the murder of the West Covina physician's wife.

The first two trials in 1960 ended in hung juries. An associate then took over the defense of Dr. Finch and the pair were convicted in 1961.

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ENTERS CASE—Grant B. Cooper
telling newsmen that he will join
in the defense of Sirhan B. Sirhan.
Times photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

GRANT COOPER DEFENDS SIRHAN

Cooper To Defend Sirhan

Grant Cooper, noted West Coast criminal attorney, has been named head of the team that will defend Sirhan B. Sirhan against charges he assassinated Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Although selected by Sirhan as the 24-year-old alien's first choice as defense attorney shortly after the Ambassador Hotel shooting, Cooper withheld announcement of his formal entry into the case until yesterday.

Cooper, a former president of the Los Angeles Bar Association, had been busy with the five-month trial of Maurice Friedman, convicted in federal court yesterday on 19 counts involved with the Friars Club card cheating scandal.

The attorney said he did not want to prejudice the federal jury trying Friedman by announcing his involvement in the Sirhan case.

The soft-spoken, 65-year-old Cooper said he decided it was his "duty" to accept the responsibility after Sirhan picked his name from a list of three men furnished by A. L. Wirin, chief counsel in California for the American Civil Liberties Union.

Veteran appeals lawyer Russell E. Parsons, who has been Sirhan's attorney of record since the accused man fired his public defender, will continue on the case.

But it was made clear Cooper will be the chief defense attorney.

Also reported to be joining the defense is Emile Zola Berman of New York, who defended Marine drill Sgt. Matthew McKeon during a 1956 "death march" court martial. McKeon, who was convicted of negligent homicide and sentenced to three months in the brig, was charged with leading a march in which 16 men drowned in a tidal stream near Parris Island, S.C.



—Herald-Examiner photo

GRANT COOPER
Joins Sirhan case

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Due in Court Thursday; Trial Will Be Reset for Jan. 6

BY RON EINSTOSS
Times Staff Writer

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker has ordered that Sirhan B. Sirhan be brought into court Thursday so that his trial can formally be postponed until Jan. 6, it was announced Tuesday.

The trial, now scheduled to begin next Monday, assertedly is being delayed so that one of Sirhan's new lawyers, Grant B. Cooper, can have time to adequately prepare himself to defend the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant, charged with murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Thursday's session, on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice, also was arranged by Judge Walker so that Cooper can become associated for the record with Russell E. Parsons, who has been representing Sirhan since June.

A third lawyer, Emile Zola Berman, is expected to join the defense team later, but it is not anticipated that further postponements in the

case will be necessary for the purpose of his preparing for the trial. Berman lives in New York City.

It was disclosed Monday that Cooper will join in the defense of Sirhan, although there was speculation for some time that he would come into the case.

Cooper said he waited until after the conclusion of the Friars Club card cheating trial, at which he represented one of the defendants, to announce his agreement to help defend Sirhan.

Judge Walker said he will seek an agreement from Parsons, Cooper and Dep. Dist. Attys. Lynn D. Compton, John E. Howard and David N. Pitts to permit the televising of the trial on a closed-circuit basis to newsmen who are unable to be seated in the courtroom because of its limited capacity.

Meanwhile, full televising of the trial was advocated by the Board of Supervisors.

The board adopted a motion by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn requesting the State Judicial Council to modify its Rule 980, prohibiting photographing, recording for broadcasting or broadcasting while a court is in session.

Supervisor Warren M. Dorn said Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger has said he would be "delighted" to have television channels cover the trial provided they cover the entire proceedings and not merely use a few excerpts which might prejudice the community.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Trial Delay Ruling Set Thursday

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker decides tomorrow whether to delay until January the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, 24-year-old Syrian accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

While Walker is expected to grant the defense request for delay, he has withheld comment on a request by County Board of Supervisors to allow public televising of the trial.

The board voted unanimously yesterday to ask that the courtroom proceedings be opened to local and national television broadcasters because "the public, under the constitution, has a right to observe this trial."

Judge Walker already has indicated he may allow closed-circuit television to be transmitted to newsmen on another Hall of Justice floor during the trial. The Sirhan courtroom is not large enough to accommodate all representatives of the press who have asked for credentials to attend the trial.

The jurist indicated he would not oppose the closed-circuit transmission if he heard no objections from defense or state attorneys.

Defense attorneys go before Walker tomorrow to seek delay of the trial to Jan. 6 from its scheduled starting date next Monday, to allow Sirhan's chief defender time to study the case.

Grant B. Cooper, noted criminal lawyer, announced his entry into the case Monday and met his new client for the first time yesterday.

The public television proposal endorsed by the Board of Supervisors was introduced by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

He said the trial should be televised "under strict regulations and control."

Hahn said concealed television cameras are being installed in the eighth-floor courtroom, with cables to run to a fourth-floor newsmen's room.

"It would be practical with the same television cameras and the same cables to permit full television coverage of the trial," he said.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Cooper Says No Sirhan Trial TV

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously proposed Tuesday public television of the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, but Grant Cooper, Sirhan's new attorney, vetoed the idea.

Cooper had a one-hour first meeting with the man charged with slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Cooper, accompanied by Sirhan's other attorney, Russell E. Parsons, said public televising of the trial could not be done without the defendant's consent and "you are never going to get the consent of the defendant as long as Russ Parsons and I are the attorneys."

MEANWHILE, a judge Tuesday ordered a hearing on whether to postpone the trial of Sirhan until after the first of the year, because the defendant has acquired the new chief defense attorney.

The trial was scheduled to start next Monday, but Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker ordered a hearing Thursday on Attorney Parsons' request for a delay so that Cooper can familiarize himself with the case. The judge was expected to grant the continuance until Jan. 6.

Accompanied by Parsons, Cooper Tuesday met for the first time with Sirhan in the defendant's cell. Cooper said he "got acquainted" with his new client, whom he described as "very pleasant." He said Sirhan had "no special requests." Cooper said Sirhan matched up the mental picture he had of him, except he was "a little slighter" than his photographs.

Cooper said he felt public television of the trial would be unethical.

But supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who introduced the television motion, said:

"The public, under the Constitution, has a right to observe this trial."

IF THE Constitution's Bill of Rights "was being made now," he said, "television and radio would be included in the concept of freedom of the press to disseminate the news and the facts."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan's Closed TV Trial Set for Jan. 7

Sirhan B. Sirhan, a Jordanian immigrant, will go on trial Jan. 7 for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. The trial will be held in a specially built steel-plated Superior Courtroom where it was ruled yesterday that the proceedings would be televised into another room for the benefit of newsmen.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, in a precedent ruling said that he would permit closed circuit television for the trial because of the influence of newsmen who will be covering it. The proceedings would be televised into an auxiliary courtroom but will not be televised publicly.

The jurist also indicated he would allow husbands and wives of jurors to spend weekends with their spouses during the length of the trial, expected to last two months.

The revelations came during a 13-minute hearing during which Judge Walker overruled a prosecution argument that the trial should go on Monday as scheduled.

Judge Walker granted the continuance beyond the holidays so that new defense counsel,

Grant B. Cooper, could prepare in response to questions by his case.

Cooper told the court he had been tied up 5½ months in a Federal Court trial, the Friar's Club card-cheating case which ended Tuesday.

He said he needed more time to prepare Sirhan's case, and Judge Walker agreed.

Cooper said he had been asked by letter from Sirhan, and by an American Civil Liberties Union attorney, to represent the assailant of the New York senator at the Ambassador Hotel.

Five bystanders were wounded in the June 5th shooting spree which occurred just after Kennedy had announced his victory in California's Democratic presidential primary election.

Cooper will head a defense trio, the other members of which will be Russell E. Parsons, who previously had alone represented Sirhan, and New York trial lawyer Emile Zola Berman.

Berman will come to Los Angeles within a week to confer with Sirhan and his associate attorneys.

Sirhan, wearing dark trousers and a light blue shirt, spoke three times during the hearing

Judge Walker.

The slight, swarthy Sirhan offered no objection to the closed-circuit television for newsmen and waived the statutory time limit for the trial start.

When asked by the jurist if he wished Cooper to become associated with Parsons in the defense, Sirhan said, "Very much so, sir."

Cooper's request for another delay was granted over the objection of Deputy District Atty. John Howard who said the prosecution was ready to proceed and that the defense has had ample time to prepare its case. The Jan. 7 date was selected because it is the first day Berman will be available.

Deputy District Atty. David N. Fitts said he was opposed to sequestering (locking up) the jury during the trial but Judge Walker made it plain he had already decided on this.

Defense attorneys, during a news conference after the hearing, agreed with a prosecution estimate that the trial would last at least two months.

Cooper said defense investigators have interviewed 200 witnesses and have taken written statements from 80.

Fitts said that the prosecution plans to call 200 witnesses.

Fitts also said that he had not contacted any members of the Kennedy family since the senator's death and it was not expected that the senator's widow, Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, would be asked to testify at the trial.

Mrs. Kennedy was only a few feet from her husband when he was shot.

Cooper, who described his client as a "very average chap," said there is "no probability" that Sirhan will change

his present straight innocent plea to one of not guilty by reason of insanity.

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When asked if he might seek a change of venue from Los Angeles, Cooper said: "Where to?"

He did predict that it would be difficult to select a jury. He said the defense plans to investigate extensively the jury panel.

Yesterday's closely-guarded hearing, attended by Sirhan's mother, Mary, and two brothers, Adel and Munir, came six months to the day after Kennedy was shot.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Court Postpones Trial of Sirhan for Third Time

Delay to Jan. 7 Granted
So New Lawyer Can Get
Chance to Look Into Case

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

Starting date for the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was postponed Thursday for the third time, to Jan. 7.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker granted the continuance to allow attorney Grant B. Cooper time to familiarize himself with the case and help prepare the defense.

Cooper, occupied for the past five and a half months as defense counsel in another case, made his first appearance in connection with Sirhan Thursday.

At the same time, he informed the court that a third lawyer, Emile Zola Berman of New York, will join the defense. Until now, Russell E. Parsons has worked alone.

The defense and prosecution also agreed Thursday to closed circuit televising of the trial from the eighth floor courtroom to a fourth floor auxiliary newsroom.

Courtroom Too Small

Judge Walker noted that his Department 107 courtroom has a seating capacity for only 30 to 40 newsmen, but that more than 100 accredited news media have requested seats.

The closed circuit camera, located in a rear window grille near the ceiling, will pipe the courtroom activity solely to the overflow crowd of newsmen on the lower floor. No public television or radio broadcasts are allowed.

Judge Walker also announced that since he intends to have the jury sequestered throughout the trial, he probably will allow jurors' wives and husbands to visit them on weekends. Both the prosecution and defense have estimated that the trial might run about two months.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard reiterated the prosecution's continued objection to postponements of the Sirhan trial, stating that prosecution witnesses have been prepared for the trial's opening on the scheduled date, next Monday.

No Trouble Expected

But Dep. Dist. Atty. David Fitts, Howard's partner, told a news conference later that the postponement was not expected to cause the prosecution's case any trouble.

The prosecution has been concerned that a claim could later be raised that Sirhan's right to a speedy trial was disregarded, and thus they have objected regularly to each continuance.

Sirhan, clad in dark slacks and a pale blue dress shirt, agreed in a firm, clear voice to each of Judge Walker's rulings—on the continuance, the televising of the trial and the weekend visits of jurors' spouses.

He appeared alert and interested in the proceedings, leaning over frequently to whisper to Parsons. At one point, Judge Walker admonished him, "You should listen to this, Mr. Sirhan."

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Nods at Mother

The 24-year-old Jordanian also exchanged nods and warm glances, but no words, with his mother, Mary, and two of his four brothers, Adel, 30, and Munir 21.

Cooper told the court that he was asked "within a week or 10 days" after the June 5 Kennedy shooting to represent Sirhan and that he agreed on the condition that it not reach trial before his then-current work, the Friars Club card cheating case, was concluded.

That case ended Monday and that same day, Cooper said, he met Sirhan for the first time. They talked about an hour, he said, "getting acquainted and talking mostly in generalities."

c c to Bureau

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Stolen and Forged Check May Have Been Cashed by Sirhan

Owner of Corona Store Says '66 Draft Was Made Out to and Endorsed by Accused Assassin of Robert Kennedy

Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer

CORONA—A forged check stolen from a construction company was cashed in a grocery store here in November, 1966, by a man believed to have been Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the Corona police chief said Friday.

The alleged forgery, which was for \$81.57, went unnoticed by the owner of the store, Lyle Hattan, until Wednesday when he was contacted by the state Department of Justice and asked to turn the check over to the authorities.

Hattan said the check was made out in the name of Sirhan and was endorsed in his name.

When the check bounced, Hattan said, a police investigation found that nine bank checks had been stolen from the Altfillisch Construction Co. by someone who had broken in.

Sirhan's name had been typed onto one of the blank checks and the amount had been filled in by a mechanical device.

At the time of the forgery, police checking at the construction company were told that Sirhan did not work for the firm. (He did, however, work at that time as an exercise boy at a ranch owned by the company.)

Written off as a forgery, the case remained buried in the files of both the police and Hattan until the Justice Department apparently came upon the complaint while checking police files on another case.

Hattan, who says he cashes many checks from the construction company, said his wife cashed the forgery after being shown a driver's license with Sirhan's name.

Police Chief Joe Greer said it is believed Sirhan endorsed the check.

Despite the publicity surrounding Sirhan, Hattan said he didn't recall the bounced check with Sirhan's name until he was contacted by the Justice Department.

"It just stayed in my debt file for tax records. At the time that it bounced I didn't bother (to pursue the case). I didn't think my chance of collecting was any good," Hattan said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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H. R. Richardson	

Don't forget -
See Director's Memo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

L.A. Weekend

Sirhan Check Bounced

One of nine blank checks stolen from the Altfillisch Construction Co. is believed to have been cashed in November, 1968, by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, according to Corona Police Chief Joe Greer.

Greer said the worthless check for \$31.75 was endorsed by the man accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Sirhan then worked as an exercise boy on a ranch owned by the firm from which the checks were stolen.

The check bounced because payment had been stopped after the theft.

Corona store owners Lyle Hatan turned the check over this week to investigators from the state attorney general's office.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Television and the Sirhan Trial

ISSUE: Would the interests of justice be served by allowing live TV coverage of the proceedings against the accused assassin?

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors last week endorsed a motion to ask the State Judicial Council to modify present California Rules of Court so as to permit live television coverage of the pending trial of Sirhan Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, author of the motion, argued that it was the public's "constitutional right" to view the trial. He cited Article VI of the Bill of Rights, which says in part: "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed."

Hahn maintained that television and radio should have the same rights as the written press to cover trials. Representatives of those media do, of course, have the same rights. What they are denied, and quite properly, is the use of their electronic equipment in the courtroom. Still cameras are similarly banned from the courts while a trial is actually in progress.

Article VI of the Bill of Rights is part of

the public's constitutional protections insofar as it applies to individuals. The purpose of a public trial is primarily to protect the accused by ensuring that the processes of justice are fairly carried out. All courtrooms have limited seating capacities. The presence of the press guarantees, among other things, that a courtroom cannot be "packed" by spectators favoring one side.

To introduce TV cameras or recording equipment into a courtroom is to run the risk of transforming a public trial into a trial by publicity. Former California Atty. Gen. (now a state Supreme Court justice) Stanley Mosk noted five years ago that "a witness who knows he is 'on camera' is likely to be acting instead of relating facts."

No one denies there is great interest in the Sirhan case. It is precisely because of that interest and attendant emotions that special care must be taken to avoid turning the trial into an entertainment spectacle. In this case as in all others considerations of justice must take precedence.

The rights of all parties in the case, and the public's right to know, can be fully served without live TV coverage. The Board of Supervisors should rescind the motion.

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1 DEC 12 1968
FBI - LOS ANGELES

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Supervisor Hahn Offers Argument in Favor of Televising Sirhan Trial

I feel the citizens have a right to be informed and to observe our courts.

I agree with those portions of your editorial (Dec. 12) regarding the risk of "transforming a public trial into a trial by publicity." I do not advocate this nor would I support televising (the Sirhan) trial if there had to be cameras, crews and cables strewn across the floor.

There is already a hidden television camera in this courtroom.

It is in one of the air conditioning units over the window and its lens will cover most of the courtroom, including the judge and witnesses but not the jury. There is already a television cable from the eighth floor courtroom to a former jury room on the fourth floor which is being converted for an additional 100 reporters to cover the trial.

I would object to extra cameras in the courtroom. However, since we have Channel 28 (which is an educational, non-profit television channel in Los Angeles), it would seem to me simple and practical that this station could connect to the receiver on the fourth floor and broadcast the entire proceedings. No one in the court room would see the camera. There would be no disturbance. Yet, the public would have the opportunity to witness this historic trial.

★

Whether or not the Judicial Council of California modifies Rule 980 (which prohibits "photographing, recording for broadcasting or broadcasting while court is in session"), I believe a video tape recording of the trial should be made not only for the benefit of appeals but the benefit of the public and in the best interest of justice.

I share your concern that we do not want to make this trial into an "entertainment spectacle" in which the witnesses, judges and lawyers would be constantly aware of the camera. I believe both the prosecution and the defense, as well as the judge, the jury and the witnesses—whether or not there is a camera or reporters—will do everything within their power to present the facts to the jury in the highest tradition of American jurisprudence.

Whether Rule 980 is amended this year or next, I predict that in the not too distant future certain other courtroom proceedings will be opened to television if it serves the best interests of the public, the accused and the court.

KENNETH HAHN
Supervisor, Second District
Los Angeles

I wish to commend The Times for the editorial (Dec. 12) "Television and the Sirhan Trial," opposing the television coverage of criminal trials as an unconstitutional "trial by publicity."

The California Rules of Court wisely prohibit the televising of any criminal trial for the sound reasons set forth in your

editorial. The object of a criminal trial must remain a calm search for the truth and not a source of public diversion.

ARTHUR L. ALARCON
Judge, Superior Court
Los Angeles

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-6 Los Angeles
Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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12-17-68

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO UPSET SIRHAN NEWS BAN

The U.S. Supreme Court Monday refused to upset a Los Angeles Superior Court order restricting the release of information in the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger had appealed the order, charging it failed to balance the need for a fair trial with the right of free speech.

But attorneys for the Superior Court pointed out that without some restriction, prejudicial publicity was likely to occur. They contended there was no restraint of free speech because the order was not directed to news media.

Superior Judge Arthur L. Alarcon issued the order June 7. The order was directed against attorneys, police, grand jurors, subpoenaed witnesses and others officially connected with the case.

It directs them not to release or give opinions about evidence, documents, exhibits or similar aspects of the case, on penalty of "swift action to punish for contempt."

Younger's challenge of the order previously was denied by the State Court of Appeal. The State Supreme Court refused to review it. The trial is scheduled to start Jan. 6.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-1 Los Angeles
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

3rd Attorney Named For Sirhan Defense

New York Attorney Emil Zola (locked in) during the trial. Berman has been approved as the third member of the defense team of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan gave approval to Berman yesterday during a brief hearing in a small 14th floor courtroom of the Hall of Justice.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker asked Sirhan if he approved of Berman and the Jordanian immigrant replied, "Yes sir, I do."

Berman joins West Coast attorneys Russell E. Parsons and Grant Cooper in preparing the defense in the murder trial which starts Jan. 7.

Also during the hearing yesterday, Judge Walker formally ordered the jury be sequestered

Arguments against isolating the jury were made by prosecutor John Howard, who contended the court's restrictive rulings to the press eliminated harm to the jury.

Defense attorney Cooper argued that sequestering was necessary and then formally motioned for the isolation of the jury, with the understanding jury members could visit with their families on weekends.

Judge Walker, in issuing his order, said, "I'm not concerned with the press' handling of this case; I'm more worried jury members might be harrassed."

The judge then revealed that he himself had received mailed threats, including a letter which advised him to "make sure my insurance is paid up."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Defense Tells of Hopes to Save Sirhan's Life

N.Y. Attorney Joins 2 L.A. Lawyers in Assassination Trial

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

New York attorney Emile Zola Berman formally joined two Los Angeles lawyers Wednesday in defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Asked how the defense team would direct its efforts, the 65-year-old Berman told newsmen that they hoped, "to some extent, for exoneration. We are hoping to save his life."

Berman, in a brief hearing before Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, was admitted to practice in California for the duration of Sirhan's trial, scheduled to begin Jan. 7. He joins prominent defense attorneys Grant Cooper and Russell Parsons in defending the 24-year-old Jordanian.

Judge Walker, who will preside over the trial, also announced he will lock up the jurors at night and over weekends throughout the trial, which is expected to consume at least three months.

Called Intolerable Hardship

Asst. Dist. Atty. John Howard argued that sequestering the jury would work an intolerable hardship on many prospective jurors, and would thus make it harder to impanel a jury and limit the broad sociological base from which jurors should be drawn.

Judge Walker replied that he was concerned that jurors not be subjected to threats or harassment after the trial opens, adding that he himself has already received mailed threats.

The jurist said that persons involved in trials "become case-hardened" to harassment and "don't experience the same apprehension, as jurors, with phone calls and cars driving by the house at night."

Judge Walker repeated his earlier intention to allow spouses to visit jurors on weekends—a plan to which neither the defense or prosecution objected.

Sirhan, clean shaven and dressed in the usual pale blue dress shirt, spoke only four words during the short hearing. "Yes sir, I do," he told Judge Walker when asked if he accepted Berman on the defense team.

Quiet and Reserved

Berman, like Parsons, appeared a quiet, reserved figure, in contrast to the jovial, affable Cooper.

Cooper introduced Berman to various court officials as "Zook."

When asked how he came by the nickname, Berman said: "On the sidewalks of New York, you can't get along with the name Emile Zola."

Berman, a Jew, was asked if his ethnic background were significant in his selection. Sirhan's alleged anti-Zionist feelings have been widely regarded as a factor in the slaying of Kennedy, who had advocated U.S. military aid to Israel. Berman replied that the subject had never been discussed.

Berman is best known for his 1956 defense of Marine Drill Sgt. Matthew McKee, leader of the "recruit death march" in which six marines drowned in a stream near Parris Island, S.C. McKee was convicted of negligent homicide and spent three months in the brig.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Editor: Nick B. Williams
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THEY'LL DEFEND SIRHAN—Emile Zola Berman, right, after formally joining Russell Parsons, left,

and Grant Cooper in the defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Times photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

D.A. Told to Give Defense All Evidence Beneficial to Sirhan

Deputy Agrees to Motion at Hearing, Notes That His Office Already Has Provided Most of What Is Requested

BY JOHN DREYFUSS

Times Staff Writer

The District Attorney's office was ordered Monday to share with Sirhan B. Sirhan's defense attorneys all evidence which might specifically aid the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker issued the order on a routine motion by Grant B. Cooper, one of Sirhan's three lawyers.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard readily agreed to the motion, noting

that his office has already provided most of what it requested.

Sirhan was present for the 15-minute hearing in the special Hall of Justice courtroom, but said nothing except "yes, sir" in answer to several questions.

At Cooper's request, the judge ordered Howard to investigate a report that Sirhan may have forged an \$81.57 check in 1966.

Cooper, who maintained Sirhan did not commit the alleged forgery, said a recent news story indicated he might have and was misleading and harmful to his client.

The attorney also said he had invited a noted psychiatrist and expert on criminology to examine Sirhan.

Dr. Bernard Diamond, a psychiatrist and professor of criminology and law at UC Berkeley, had seen Sirhan, Cooper said.

Cooper said he had asked Diamond to visit Sirhan because it is his duty as a lawyer to "examine any and all possible defenses."

Sirhan agreed to be inoculated against the Hong Kong flu, and Walker ordered the shot administered to help insure that the trial begin as scheduled on Jan. 7.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Lost in the Crowd—Is It Sirhan?

JUST ANOTHER FACE in the crowd . . . or? Herald-Examiner photographer Bob Shultz in reviewing the pictures he took on the night the late Sen. Robert Kennedy was assassinated was suddenly struck by a face in the crowd, the crowd that had gathered at the Ambassador Hotel in victory celebration following the election victory in California of Senator Kennedy. To Schultz and others who studied the picture and the enlargement, the face had the characteristics of accused assassin Sirhan B. Sirhan. But two other factors intrigued those who studied the pictures. One was that the "face in the crowd" was stationed to the right of the speaker's stand near the exits that Senator Kennedy later took toward the kitchen and his death. The other was the "polka-dot"-like coat of the woman who was standing near the "face" in question. Investigators from the Los Angeles Police Department were presented with the pictures. They have refused to make any positive identification, ruling out any other connection between the "face" and the assassination. They do point out that the hand raised near the "face" apparently belonged to someone else in the crowd. An official Los Angeles Police Department photo as displayed after the assassination by Police Chief Tom Reddin is shown for comparison with the new pictures of 'the face in the crowd' the night Senator Kennedy was shot. The trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan is scheduled to begin on January 7.

Arrow, at left, in top photo points to man bearing resemblance to accused assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy. Picture was made at Kennedy victory celebration moments before the Senator was slain. Details of man's appearance are enlarged in blowup at left. Comparison of the unidentified person and Sirhan can be made by the photo of Kennedy suspect displayed by Police Chief Thomas Reddin, right.

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1-2-69

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

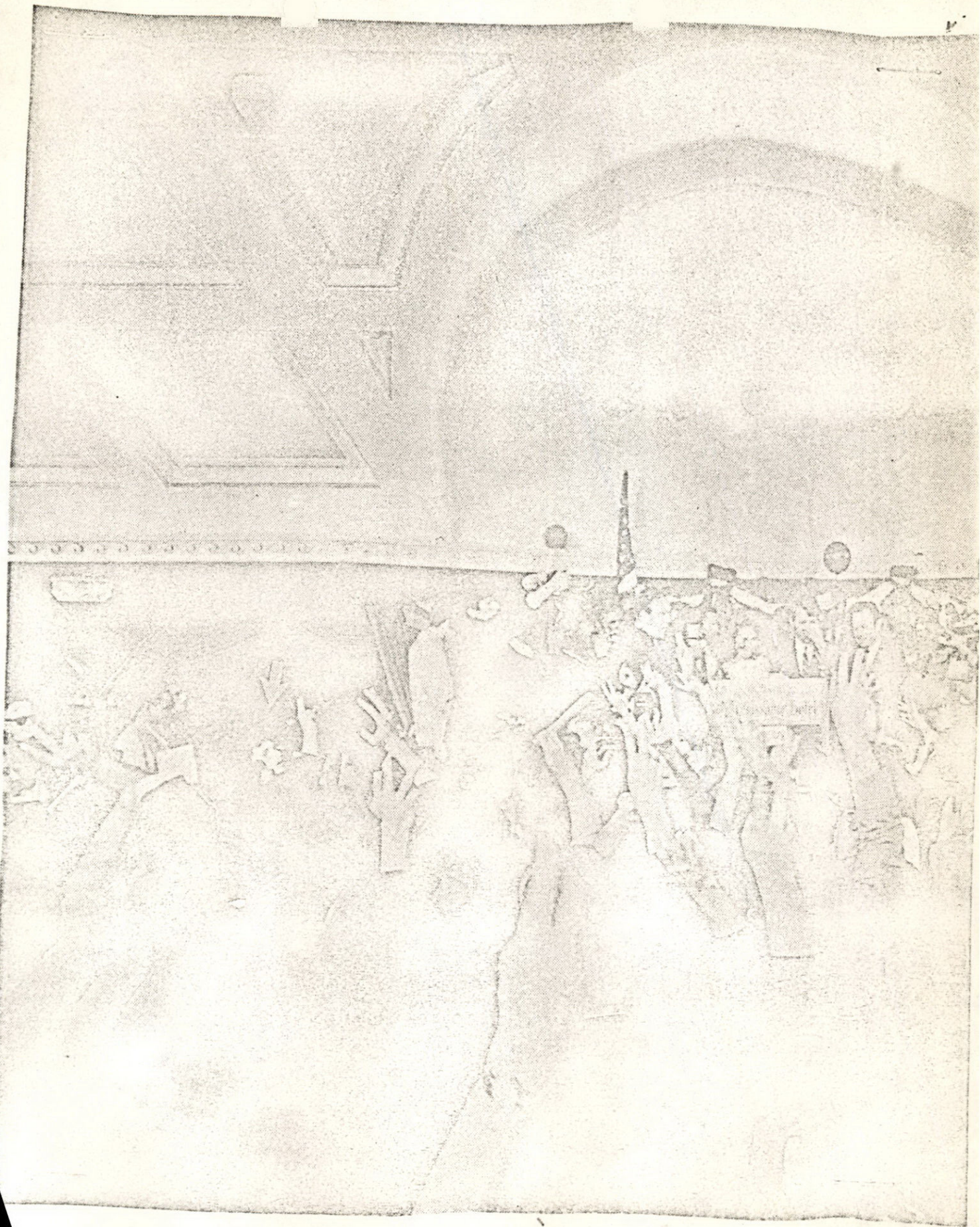
A-4 Herald-Examiner
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Editor: Donald Goodeno
Title: Kensalt

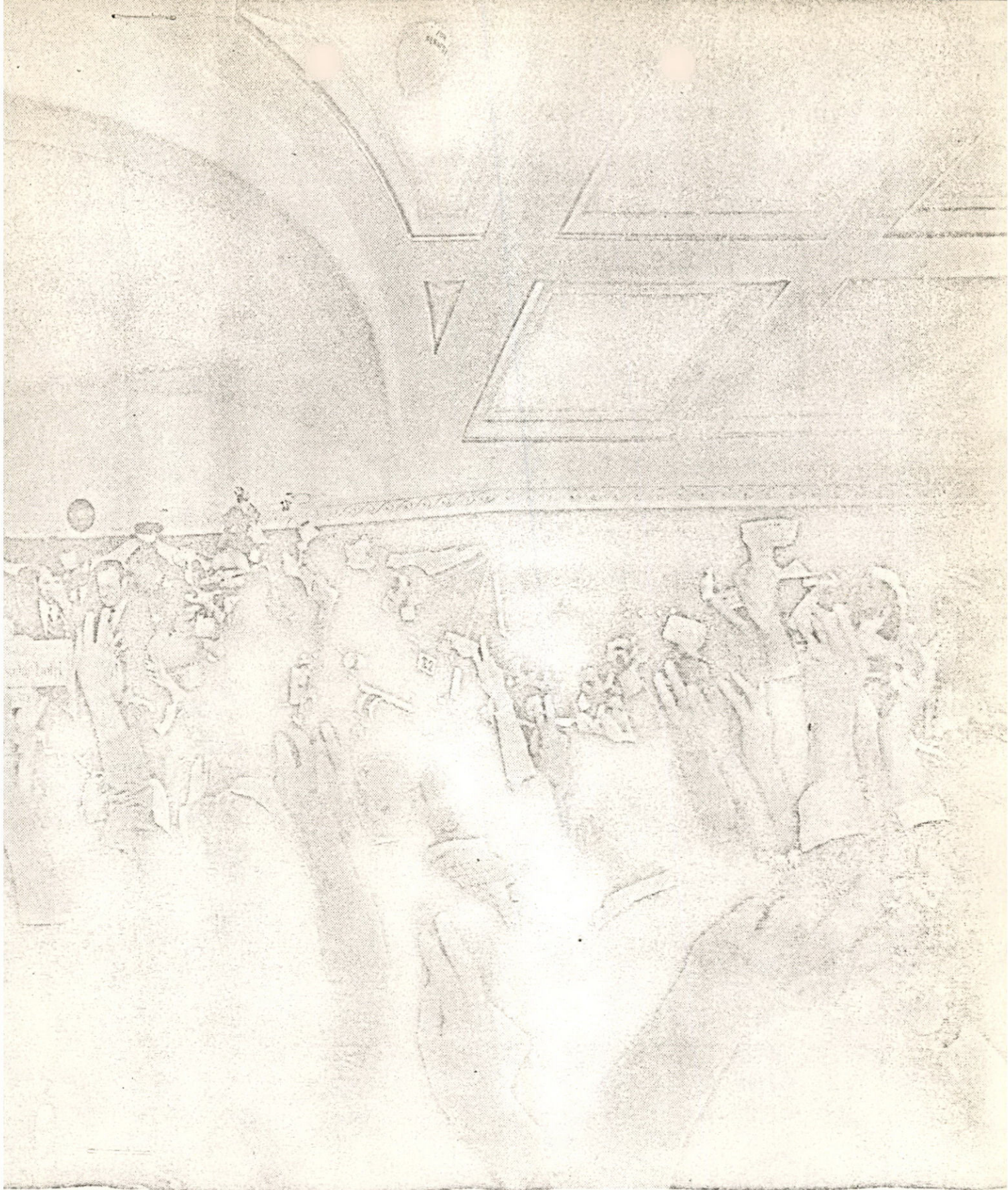
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Classification: 56-156
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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Cleared of Any Connection in Check Forgery Case

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, facing trial next week in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was cleared Monday of any connection with the theft and forgery of a payroll check made out in his name in 1966.

One of Sirhan's attorneys, Grant B. Cooper, had asked a police investigation to clear Sirhan's name after existence of the forged check was disclosed last Dec. 7.

Dep. Police Chief Robert A. Houghton carried out the investigation at the order of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker.

Among Several Stolen

Houghton said the check was made out to Sirhan Sirhan against Altifillach Construction Co. on Nov. 14, 1966, for \$81.57, representing Sirhan's pay as a racehorse exercise boy. The check was signed by the bookkeeper of the Granja Gista del Rio Ranch, which is owned by the construction company.

Houghton said the check was among several stolen from the company's offices. It was never in Sirhan's hands. Sirhan's name was forged to the stolen check and it was cashed at a Corona grocery store.

The unsolved forgery case came to light when the Justice Department was checking police files in another case.

Houghton said there is now a suspect in the forgery and the case is under investigation by Corona police.

Sirhan is scheduled to go to trial Jan. 7 before Judge Walker.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
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A Review of the News During 1968

It was in April when the violence once again spilled over into international headlines, there to remain for many months. Negro civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King was slain April 4, but there was an aftermath of riots that left death, destruction and bitterness across the nation.

Dr. King, Nobel Peace Prize winner and apostle of nonviolence, met violent death by gunfire as he stood on the balcony of a Negro-owned motel in Memphis, where he had come to aid striking Negro sanitation workers.

As word spread through the nation, so did disorder, fires, looting and major riots. In Washington, hardest hit of some 100 cities, Negro mobs burned down and looted business establishments within two miles of the White House. As in other cities, a curfew was imposed, sales of firearms and liquor were banned and federal troops—4,000 in the nation's capital—were called up.

Other Americans reacted by closing stores, cancelling sports, social and theatrical events, and halting political activity. President Johnson delayed a projected trip to Hawaii for consultations on Vietnam and the Paris peace talks.

It was late in the month before conditions stabilized to the point where the nation could tote up its losses in the civil disorders: 46 dead, all but five of them Negroes, an astronomical cost in money and property and a truly incalculable loss in interracial good will.

King's alleged assassin was identified after the murder as one James Earl Ray, an ex-convict who left a wide trail extending through the South and Midwest as well as Los Angeles. Despite an all-out search by more than 3,000 FBI agents, it was not until more than two months later that he was tracked down in London. Extradited, he promptly sold his life story for a down payment of \$25,000 to finance his defense that will begin next March in a Memphis courtroom.

It seemed like only a turn of the hourglass before the nation was plunged into mourning once again—this time for the man who had become almost a deity to the nation's youth and a hoped-for saviour to the country's minorities.

One major bill passed by Congress only days after Dr. King's death was the federal civil right bill to ban discrimination in the sale or rental of 80% of U.S. housing units by 1970. This was followed two months later by an even stronger Supreme Court ruling—based on an 1866 ordinance—which bans discrimination in renting or selling any dwelling unit.

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G-6 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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1 DEC 31 1968	
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A. Richardson

Robert Kennedy, exactly two months and one day after Dr. King's murder, was gunned down in the main ballroom of Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel a few minutes past midnight and only moments after he had claimed victory in California's important primary presidential election.

Millions of television viewers across the nation, closely following the senator's relentless drive to the White House, were shocked into a numbness that would remain for days. They saw the sudden chaos, they heard the screams, the shouts, the curses and witnessed the unabashed weeping that went on for frantic moments while Kennedy supporters captured and disarmed the suspected assassin, an immigrant Jordanian student who assertedly tracked down Kennedy because of what he believed were the senator's pro-Israeli sentiments.

The overflow crowd in the smoke-filled ballroom was still chanting, "We want Bobby!" as the shots rang out, Kennedy fell mortally wounded, and five other persons slumped over with minor injuries. His alleged killer, Sirhan B. Sirhan, was captured and pummeled by Kennedy aides and will go to trial early next year on a plea of not guilty.

At 1:44 a.m. on June 7, slightly more than two days after he was gunned down, Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the age of 42.

As messages of condolence poured in from across the nation and throughout the globe, the Kennedy clan once again buried a fallen member. Only hours after he died, the senator's body was flown in a presidential jetliner to New York, where it lay in state in St. Patrick's Cathedral pending a Requiem Mass the following Saturday. Following a televised funeral, it was then taken by special train to Washington and buried by torchlight next to that of Kennedy's assassinated brother.

"... the Shots Rang Out, Kennedy Fell Mortally Wounded"

Reactions to the tragedy were many and varied: Politically, it was a new ball game. While a heavy percentage of the nation's youth and its minority groups wandered in a leaderless daze, McCarthy, Vice President, Humphrey and Nixon faced the facts of life and reoriented their presidential campaigns.

But by far the most noteworthy result of Kennedy's murder was a public outcry for an end to violence. At city, state and national levels this took the form of demands for stringent control on the sale and use of firearms—a movement that was launched with President Kennedy's death in Dallas only to be torpedoed by special-interest lobbyists at all levels.

Despite the clamor, despite the fact that frightened citizens were buying guns faster than ever as violence continued unabated, Congress enacted legislation that merely banned interstate sales of firearms and over-the-counter sales to juveniles and nonresidents of the state of purchase.



FATAL WOUND—Sen. Robert F. Kennedy lies near death in Los Angeles only a few moments after an assassin's bullet entered his brain.
Times photo by Boris Yaro

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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FBI — LOS ANGELES	
A.O. Richards	

Sirhan Trial...Judge Herbert V. Walker, Man in Charge

By Phil Hanna

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, chosen to preside over the murder trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, is called a "careful, legal technician" by his contemporaries.

The accused slayer of New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy can expect fair, honest and humane treatment from Walker, who has served on the Los Angeles criminal court bench for 13 of his 15 years as a judge.

The 69-year-old Walker whose best-remembered decision came in the Confidential Magazine criminal libel case 10 years ago, will be a familiar name in most households as every courtroom move will be examined closely around the world.

Appointed to the Superior Court in 1953 by then Gov. Earl Warren, the jurist is senior in term of years on the criminal bench in Los Angeles County.

Other noteworthy decisions rendered by Walker include his upholding of the death penalty in the case of convicted sex offender Robert Emmett Thornton.

The judge said the death penalty "was not cruel and unusual punishment" in Thornton's case.

"The death penalty does not violate the dignity of man nor does it violate the standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society," Judge Walker held.



Superior Court
Judge
Herbert V. Walker.
Called a
"careful legal
technician"
by his
colleagues,
he is
remembered
for the
Confidential Magazine
libel trial
and other
notable cases
including the
Robert Emmett Thornton
and
Caryl Chessman
cases.
He is 69,
has served on
the criminal
court bench
for 13 years.

—Herald-Examiner photo

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

An aircraft worker, Thornton was convicted of a series of sex attacks and kidnaping of three women. None were killed but one was injured so he was convicted under California's Little Lindbergh Law.

Judge Walker became involved in the Caryl Chessman case when he disqualified himself in the sentencing of the "Red Light Bandit."

It was Chessman's ninth appeal, and Walker said he took himself out of the case when it appeared that defense attorneys had a chance for two more years of appeals because it was alleged that the judge had discussed the case with District Attorney William B. McKesson.

At the time he denied he held any prejudice in Chessman's case.

Asked if he had been compared with famed criminal judge Charles Fricke, Walker laughed.

"You are talking about the man who was my ideal on the bench," he said. "He was an author, a lecturer, and I'm none of those things."

Walker aspired to the bench following his graduation from the University of Southern California Law School in 1928.

He was deputy corporation commissioner for 15 years following graduation from

school; spent three years as chief deputy district attorney; and was in private practice for seven years before his appointment to the bench.

"I've sat on all three corners of the triangle and I think I know pretty well what the attorneys down front are thinking," Walker said.

He is given credit for running a tight courtroom during the Confidential Magazine trial. With all the "racy" material that was placed in exhibit, he wouldn't let the trial become a "three-ring circus."

Although he has been reversed many times on appeal with the "liberality of U.S. Supreme Court decisions," Walker has seldom questioned a jury verdict.

"When that has happened, I discussed the case with the jury, and I had to agree with them each time that their conclusion was logical," Walker said.

The courtroom for the Sirhan trial is small, with just 75 seats, 37 of which have been reserved for the news media.

Walker said he would not object if attorneys on both sides agree to a closed-circuit television transmission to a

second room on the floor below the main courtroom. This will be used to accommodate additional news media who have asked to cover the proceedings.

Walker's courtroom on the 8th floor of the Hall of Justice was selected because it offers maximum security for the defendant.

Before entering USC in 1922, Walker held a number of jobs to finance his education. He worked in an oil field in Casamalia, Calif., and at the La Brea Oil Fields in Los Angeles. He also served as chain man for a Los Angeles city surveying crew.

Before college he served two years in the Navy during World War I on the battleship USS Kentucky.

He might have had a career in motion pictures.

"They used to shoot movies near where I lived in Hollywood as a boy, and I got to be an extra in a series called 'Bill the Office Boy.'"

Born in San Francisco in 1891, Walker moved around the country with his family. They lived in Connecticut, New York and Arizona before returning to California.

He attended Los Angeles High and Lemoore Union High in his teen years.

Judge Walker, an active Episcopalian, met his wife, the former Alice Sophia Phelps, at church. They were married in 1925 and have three children and 12 grand-children.

A daughter, Mrs. Kathleen Brockelhurst, lives in Sunset Beach; a son, Herbert Weston Walker, lives in Newport Beach and practices law in Santa Ana; and a second daughter Mrs. Elizabeth Suzanne Zentner lives in Los Banos.

A resident of Glendale near the La Crescenta line, Judge Walker is a member of the Los Angeles, Glendale and American Bar Associations, Lawyer's Club, American Judicature Society, and Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity.

He is a member of the American Legion, Masonic Lodge, Shrine, Acacia fraternity, Native Sons of the Golden West, Los Angeles Athletic Club, Chancery Club, Legion Lex and is past president of the USC Law Alumni Association.

He is a past president of the California State Employee's Association.

Recalling the Scene That Night

It was approximately 12:20 a.m. the morning of June 5, 1968.

More than 1000 wildly enthusiastic Democrats jostled each other and cheered in the hot, jammed Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel, a California victory theirs.

At the Cinderella hour, Sen.

Robert F. Kennedy had stepped before the microphone to acknowledge his triumph in the California Democratic primary election and to thank them for their support.

Clustered at his elbow were some of his super supporters—his wife, Ethel, other mem-

bers of the family of tragedy and triumph, Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh, athlete and singer Roosevelt Grier.

The senator's speech was low key—one of thanks, of encouragement for the campaign ahead—and it was largely drowned out by the cheering.

The Kennedys and their party, bound for private celebrating at The Factory, changed their planned exit course through the packed crowd in the stifling ballroom.

Avoiding the room's main entrance, they moved toward a kitchen pantry.

In the pantry was a man now accused as the assassin of Sen. Kennedy—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

Shots rang out.

A man identified by police as Sirhan was crushed to the floor and a pistol wrenched from his hand.

Nearby Senator Kennedy sprawled on his back on the floor, his eyes glazing, immobile.

Twenty-five and one half hours later Senator Kennedy was dead.

The Other Victims

On that fateful early morning exactly seven months ago today, violence unparalleled in Los Angeles political history shattered the hopes of the California Democratic Party and of much of the nation.

At that hour Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was mortally wounded by gunshots that rang out in a pantry kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel.

Five other persons, all recovered, were wounded in the barrage of bullets. They were:

Paul Schrade, western director of the United Auto Workers, 4150 S. Hillcrest Drive, shot in the head.

William Weisel, 30, network newsman for ABC-TV, of Washington, D.C., wounded in the abdomen.

Irwin Stoll, 17, of 6089 Horner St., shot in the leg.

Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, 43, Saugues, a scalp wound.

Ira Goldstein, 19, of 4077 Hayvenhurst Ave., Encino, newsman for Continental News Service, shot in the left hip.

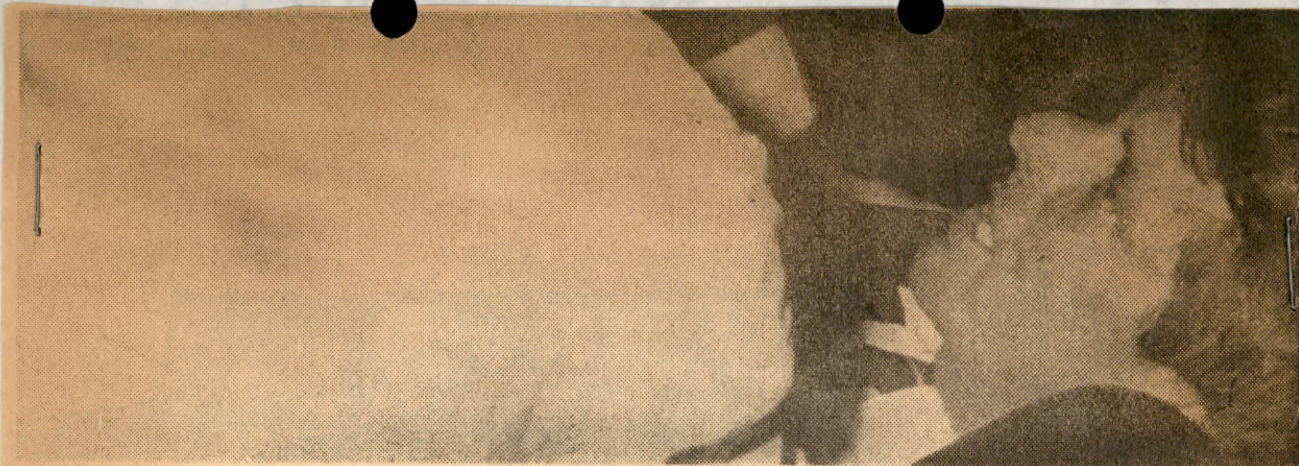
All are expected to testify in the murder trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan.



**Sen. Robert F. Kennedy
lies clutching
a rosary
shortly after
he was shot
early on June 5
of last year.
He succumbed
early the
next day.**

**Aides gathered
to comfort
the wounded
and dying
senator after
he crumpled
to the floor.**

—UPI Telephoto



—UPI Telephoto



Sweatshirt-clad
young man,
later identified
as
Sirhan B. Sirhan,
was grabbed
at the scene
of the
shooting and
disarmed.
He was then
hustled away
by Los Angeles
police and
other
security forces.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

THE BULLET AS A POLITICAL TOOL

Victim of Violence

Martin Luther King, black America's foremost leader in the non-violent struggle for civil rights, was the victim of violence when he was assassinated April 4. Here his casket is drawn by mules through the streets of Atlanta in a funeral cortege that was witnessed by thousands.

The Second Kennedy

Sen. Robert Kennedy was shot and killed in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles moments after a speech celebrating his victory over Sen. Eugene McCarthy in the California primary June 4. Four days later he was eulogized by his brother Edward (right) at funeral services in New York.

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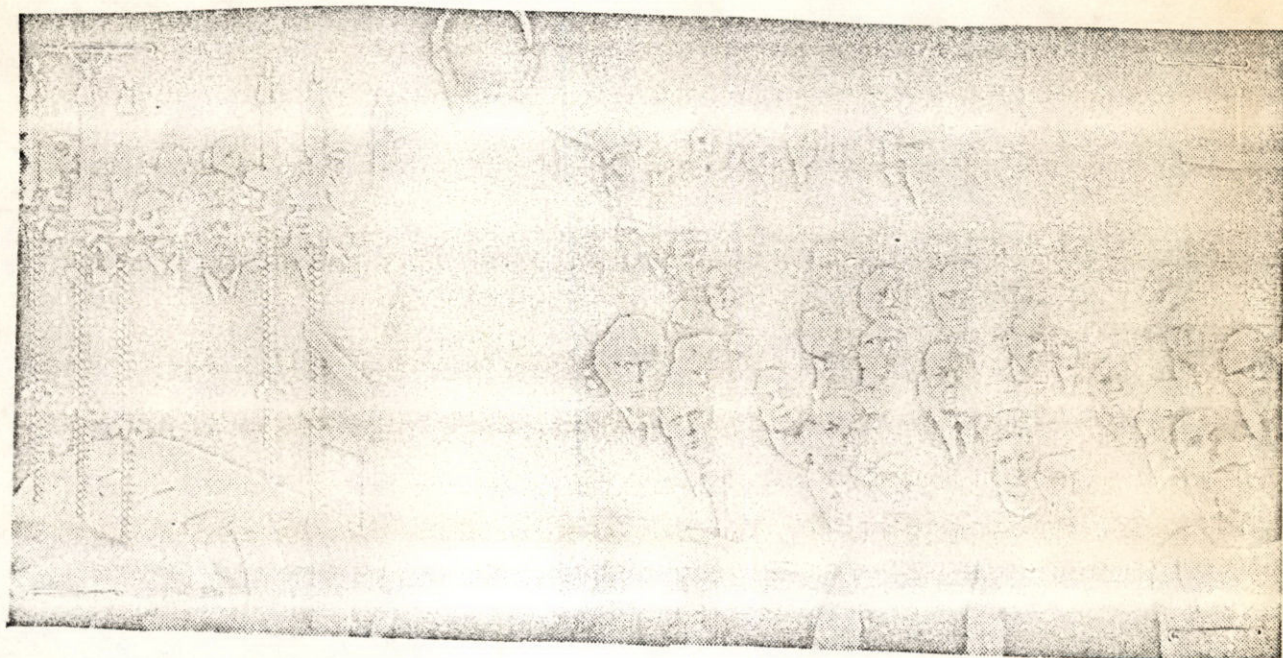
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Sirhan---the Wanderer--- Never Found His Way

Life Background Told by Those Closest to Him

BY ROBERT C. TOTH
and DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writers

In Arabic the name Sirhan means "wanderer."

In the little villages near Jerusalem—in what once was Palestine and is now Jordan and Israel—many distantly related families bear the name. Yet few people exemplify it as does Bishara Salameh Sirhan, now patriarch of a famous family.

Bishara, 55, has visited at least three times in the United States, where in 1957 he left his wife, Mary; daughter, Ayda, and three younger sons, Adel, Sirhan and Munir, and returned alone to Jordan, taking the family's money with him. In June of 1968, he and Mary were divorced, after 11 years of court action in which he accused her of infidelity. A priest called him a liar, and his own eldest sons, Sharif and Saidallah, testified that he tortured them by burning them with hot irons.

Today Bishara lives in his boyhood village of Taiyba, near Jerusalem, where he shuns his neighbors and they, in turn, repeat old stories of Sirhan family violence. Some of the stories are unquestionably false, but the villagers, significantly, believe them.

Sirhan's Early Traumas

Though Bishara has not worked since 1957, he lives in one of the town's most substantial stone houses, and, at his death, he will go to the most imposing mausoleum in Taiyba's cemetery. Its portal stone proclaims in Arabic: "This is the tomb of Bishara Sirhan." There is no mention of his family.

Sirhan was born March 19, 1944, in Jerusalem's Russian Hospital.

Bishara is the sole informant about Sirhan's earliest years, and though he did not say so immediately, in later interviews Bishara said Sirhan saw violence in the 1948

"In 1948 he saw many things," says Bishara, "woundings and sufferings..."

Arab-Israeli war that was "traumatic" to him.

"In 1948 he saw many things," says Bishara, "woundings and sufferings... Sirhan was injured in the war"—not physically, but "in his head and heart."

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The first such wound was inflicted, he says, when he and Sirhan went one day from their home in Jerusalem's Musrara sector to the post office in the Old Walled City via the Damascus Gate, and an explosive-filled barrel was dropped near the gate and blew up. "The ground shook, the walls shook. Sirhan cried from his heart. He fell down. I thought he was dead, finished. I waited and after 20 minutes he opened his eyes. 'Daddy,' he said . . ." (Here Bishara hits the table, muttering in Arabic, and his eyes moisten; when he resumes talking, there is no audible emotion in his voice, however.)

"Can you walk?" I asked him. He could not walk but he didn't want me to carry him, lest I get tired. Imagine! We saw the yard full of blood—about 40 or 50 killed. The yard was full of pieces of meat. 'Daddy, I don't want to see it,' he said, and I covered his eyes until we passed the sight. He was so frightened he spent two days in bed."

Describing the same incident another time, it is interesting to note, Bishara revealed that the explosion occurred before he had completed his errand. After Sirhan had received, Bishara went on with his business, and it was when he was taking Sirhan home, back through the bloody scene at the Damascus Gate, that Sirhan protested at the sight.

Another time, Bishara says, on another errand to the post office, a mortar shell exploded with such force nearby that Sirhan fell off a stairway, suffering a bruised cheek and bloody nose.

It was amid the explosions of shells that the family fled its tiny 7-by-10-foot room in Musrara in 1948, when Sirhan was 4. They hid in the room for two days and nights, Bishara recalls, while fighting raged in the city. Finally, he says, "a British officer told us to go, so we ran away without anything, no furniture, no clothing, no shoes."

They fled to the Old Walled City in Arab Jerusalem, moving into a house formerly occupied by Jews, while refugee Jews took sanctuary in their abandoned room in Musrara.

Bishara lost his job after this war and "it was very hard for two years," he says. "Then I went to Amman where I met a British major. I had worked for here and he gave me a job on water supply in a Jordan army camp." This appears to have been Bishara's only steady job from 1948 until the family's move to America in 1957.

When first told of Kennedy's assassination, Bishara said, "I'm stupefied. I'm shocked. This is the blackest day of my life . . . I am

very sorry. I brought my children up as best I could and to fear God."

Sirhan, he said, "was a talented boy, more than his four brothers. How he came to this is beyond me." Sirhan was a "very gentle, polite, quiet and humble boy, interested mainly in books. It's beyond comprehension how he could have committed such a terrible act on his own initiative without having been put up to do it by some other people. . . . My son was a good Christian all his life. He could not have done such a thing on his own. Someone must have pushed him into it."

"In Jerusalem," Bishara recalled, "the children were good, were satisfied." Had they ever required discipline, physical punishment per-

Sirhan was "religious, clever. Every Sunday he went to Sunday school. He prayed before going to bed."

haps? Bishara looked intent for a moment, then said, "Sometimes you had to beat them." But had he ever burned them with a hot iron? Bishara shook his head: no. And had he ever beaten Sirhan? "Sirhan was good. I never hit him," Bishara said.

The question is repeated later, and again he denies it, eyes darting from place to place: "No, never. Never . . . never . . ."

Then what of Sharif and Saidallah? Why had they left home in their early teens? "This is not important," said Bishara. "No one is perfect. . . . I've seen many things in my life. People change the truth. . . . Inside the family I don't want to speak about."

But one more question: why did he leave his family in America in 1957?

"I came back because of my mother. She is 90," said Bishara, waving toward the village. But she does not live in the village, nor with Bishara; she lives next door, with a brother. Bishara has not spoken to since 1953, and Bishara and his mother do not speak either.

As a child, Bishara said, Sirhan was "religious, clever. Every Sunday he went to Sunday school. He prayed before going to bed." Bishara added, as praise of his pious son, that "he never went out to play, never . . . I like Sirhan very much. The neighbors, teachers, they all said he was the best."

Sirhan was so well behaved and pious, Bishara said proudly, that he frequently disapproved of other children's language. Sometimes he would bring a friend home and be a perfect host, but after the boy left, Sirhan would say, "that boy uses bad language. Don't ever let him in the house again."

After fleeing Musrara, the Sirhans moved into a building at the corner of El Malak Road and Suq el-Hussur Street, a poor but clean neighborhood in the Old Walled City. The building housed a store on the ground floor, a stone stairway to a common toilet on the landing, and three rooms on the second floor. Each of the rooms was occupied by an entire family. . . .

The Sirhans' room was a split level, 15-by-30-foot room, vast by contrast to their Musrara home. A rain reservoir on the roof was the water supply, the walls were unpainted, and a single kerosene lamp was the sole light. It had a domed ceiling and a grilled window overlooking the street.

Also moving into the house after the 1948 war were two Arab Muslim families—refugees from parts of Jerusalem that later became Israel—those of Amid Yousef Hashima and Esu Jubran.

'A Very Secretive Family'

Mrs. Hashima remembers the Sirhans as "a very secretive family. They seldom spoke to others and they didn't allow their children to play in the street with others. . . . The mother always talked about Jesus and religion." But, she adds, they didn't act superior to their neighbors, just aloof.

They never discussed family troubles with Mrs. Hashima, "but there were differences between him and his wife about the children. He kicked out the eldest sons and the mother didn't like it."

The Sirhans seemed poor at the beginning, Mrs. Hashima recalls, "but then the mother became a missionary. She spoke English very well. She was intelligent. She got gifts from the church for the family—clothes and games for the children."

In the early 1950s, she recalls, Mary Sirhan was no longer a pretty woman, after a disease caused her lower lip to pull to one side. Mrs. Hashima says she thought Bishara wanted to divorce Mary after her disfigurement, although there was never any talk of another woman.

Sirhan, she says, was definitely Bishara's favorite, and "you respected Sirhan when he talked. He was not a boy in his head." But he was weak and thin—she recalls once when he was hospitalized with dysentery—and didn't play in street games.

"Sometimes I saw the boy go out dressed in a scout uniform," she

recalls. "I once asked Mary to let my sons play with him to listen to his good English and learn, but she said 'no time.'"

The Sirhan children went to the church-operated Lutheran school, better than the public school where neighbor children went, and Sirhan "was very good in writing and reading, clever. He stayed in the house, didn't play with other boys. The children didn't speak in the house. They were afraid of the father."

"They were a confused family," says Mrs. Jubran. "No one knew what was between Mary and Bishara." She often heard Bishara shouting at his wife.

"I don't know where they got money," she says. "Mary gave gifts to small children, but only to Christian children. She just worked for her own religion . . . When any neighbors needed help, Mary would help them, but she only gave gifts and money to Christian children . . . Ayda was the best one of the family," she says, but adds, "I liked Mary."

And Sirhan? "The father did not allow Sirhan to go out of the house. All of them were afraid of the father. He turned the house into a jail for them . . . The father always made Sirhan afraid. The boy was not well in his mind. He was a complicated boy."

Did he ever talk about the 1948 war experiences Bishara described? No, says Mrs. Jubran, "none of them ever mentioned them." And did Bishara appear to favor Sirhan over the other children? "He hit them all the same. He had a heart of stone."

A Sickly, Nervous Boy

Mrs. Jubran's husband, Esu, recalls Sirhan as a dark-skinned, sickly and nervous boy who, "when he wasn't yelling at his sister and brothers would sit with his mind away."

Mary was very protective, Jubran remembers, and Sirhan seemed older than his years. "When he talked," says Jubran, "it felt like he was not 11 years old."

Jubran also remembers a bomb explosion in 1954, when the shopkeeper on the floor below was killed. "I don't know if Sirhan saw it actually happen," he says, "but I saw him in the crowd right afterward." And from then on, says Jubran, Sirhan seemed changed. "He quarreled with my children and fought . . . He played rough when his father was away. I complained sometimes to Bishara and the father hit him hard."

Another neighbor, Mrs. Laila Said, recalls that Bishara used to lock Ayda in their room and her friends would have to bring food to her. Once, she says, Bishara chained her to the grilled window.

She says Bishara used to discipline the boys with cruel beatings, once beating one of the sons until he lost consciousness and chasing away the neighbors when they tried to rescue the boy.

It was in late 1948 that the Rev. Daoud Haddad, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Savior, was asked to look in on the Sirhan family. "It was a wretched house," he says, "no chairs, nothing. They were very poor, so we accepted an elder brother (Saidallah) and the sister in the school without tuition. Later we accepted more of the children, and through them got better acquainted with the family."

Father Seen as 'Odd'

"I realized the father was an odd father, nervous, with fits of temper, often getting angry at his wife. The family's life was not happy because of the moody, rude father . . . Every now and then he hit the mother. She was running about, asking people for work. He did not work. This may throw light, or perhaps a shadow, on the character of the children who had such a family life."

Mr. Haddad says the church provided the Sirhans with perhaps 25 percent of their food and clothing until 1956, when Mary became more interested in missionary work.

But during those years, Mr. Haddad formed a strong impression of young Sirhan: "Sirhan was a quiet boy, intelligent, although his grades were not the best. You could read in his eyes that he was alert. But he was unquiet, a bit nervous. He was a clever boy—very quick—but unstable and very unhappy. I remember thinking that he would have a very difficult time later in life because the family he grew up in lacked the basic things a boy needs to understand life."

Made Acceptable Grades

Mr. Haddad says he never heard of unusual tortures inflicted on the children but said, "Bishara had frequent violent fits and was given to breaking what little furniture they had, and beating the children. He thrashed them with sticks and his fists whenever they disobeyed him. Young Sirhan seemed to have some of this violence in him. He was thin and nervous and inclined to sudden bursts of temper. At other times he was oddly quiet for long periods."

"Mary was the dominant parent," he says, "but she was harsh herself. She was terribly narrow-minded and rigid in religious matters, but she loved the children in her way and she managed to hold the family together."

Sirhan attended the Lutheran school from kindergarten through the fifth grade, leaving in the summer of 1956, when he had turned 12. His grades were not the

best in the class, but nonetheless good. In the first grade he stood fifth among 26 students, and in the fifth grade he was seventh in a class of 16. His grades that year were: religion, 80, Arabic, 74; geometry, 73; singing, 73; science, 72; English, 70; geography, 68; history, 67; hygiene, 63; drawing, 61, and arithmetic, 60. As to citizenship, he was rated 75 in conduct, 75 in intelligence and 70 in cleanliness.

His teacher, Salim Awad, notes that the record says of Sirhan: "Good in subjects and character, satisfactory in cleanliness . . . Should be passed."

One of Sirhan's school friends from 1951 to 1956 was Wahib Hashwiah, who says today:

"Sirhan had a good sense of humor. The teacher might say something foolish and Sirhan would say something clever to us." These remarks were usually at the teacher's expense, he said "and sometimes the teacher would say, 'Look at this small boy, how clever he is.'"

But it was in a spirit of fun,

"You respected Sirhan when he talked. He was not a boy in his head."

Hashwiah said, and Sirhan was generally held up as a good example to the class. Although among the smallest, Sirhan was also among the oldest—Hashwiah was 3 years younger—and evidently applied himself well.

Hashwiah says Sirhan never talked about any experiences in the then-recent 1948 war, nor did he ever complain about his father.

But another acquaintance does recall one incident involving Bishara.

Selim Ratas, 4 years older than Sirhan, was a neighbor. Says Ratas: "I remember once that Sirhan had to go to school without shoes. I saw him walking barefoot. He said it was because his father had beat him, like he did the other children, and that he took a piece of iron, heated it on the stove, and put it on the boy's heel. He couldn't wear shoes then."

Sirhan, Ratas recalls, "was not well, not strong. Sometimes he wouldn't go to school for a week because he was sick. Wherever his mother went, he went—to the market, to church, visiting. He was a mother's boy."

In the summer of 1956, Bishara and Mary began to think of going to America. Sirhan did not return to the Lutheran school in the fall, and on Dec. 14 the family left Jerusalem, thanks to the American missionary couple Bishara had asked to "save a family from the darkness." Their expenses were also partially paid by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. The eldest sons, Sharif and Saidallah, by then were living in Amman and would not follow for three years.

Mary's sisters, Julia and Elaine, recall that when the family left the ancient city for a new life in the new world, "Mary didn't say goodbye when she left. Her husband refused to let her see us." And after Mary arrived in America, she never wrote.

Father Stayed in East

Four days after their arrival in New York the Sirhans went on to Pasadena, home city of the missionary couple who had befriended them in Jerusalem.

Differences between Bishara and Mary came rapidly to a head, and since he had found himself a good job in an east coast defense plant, it was left to Mary to find a home for herself, her daughter and three sons.

Mary found a small, cream-colored, three-bedroom frame house on Howard St., one of Pasadena's older, lower-middle-income residential streets. Like most of the houses nearby, it is about 50 years old, set well back on its lot under tall shade trees. It is an inviting setting for children to play in and the street, now racially mixed, rings daily with the shouts of children of all sizes and colors.

But it was always very quiet around the Sirhan home, says a neighbor. She, of European background, says other neighbors were

very cold, even belligerent, to her sometimes, and to the Sirhans as well, so the Sirhans kept mostly to themselves. There were no parties, few visitors, and she recalls seeing Sirhan playing occasionally with another neighbor's collie dog or putting in the yard, washing the car or doing some gardening—an activity which pleased both him and his mother.

The Sirhans were no more warmly received elsewhere.

The Arab community is among the smaller of Southern California's many ethnic populations, numbering between 20,000 and 30,000, and is overwhelmingly Lebanese and Syrian. Most of these immigrated to America before World War I, found Southern California to be much like their homeland, and now, well into a second and third generation, are comfortably integrated into an affluent American culture which they are coming more and more to regard as native. There are no predominantly Arab neighborhoods, as one might find in New York; they are widely scattered throughout Southern California.

Family Without Father

In this formless Arab "community," the Sirhans were different, set apart. They were newly arrived and unfamiliar with their new surroundings. They were noticeably dark-skinned. When they spoke English, it was heavily accented and halting, and among themselves, at home, they clung to Arabic. They were poor. And among a people in whom the patriarchal tradition is strong, they were a family without a father.

For their part, the Sirhans found little to entice them out of their constricted new world. There were only about 50 Jordanian families throughout the entire Los Angeles area, most of them already embarked on American lives of their own.

There were a very few Arab nightclubs where one might watch dancers and hear one's native music and speech, but Mrs. Sirhan sharply disapproved of these. Her family neither drank nor smoked, nor did they frequent places where other people did.

There was no Greek Orthodox church nearby. Most of that faith went to the Syrian Orthodox Cathedral, St. Nicholas, in Los Angeles. The Sirhans made the inconvenient trip a few times at the beginning, but these trips soon tapered off. Father Paul Romley recalls them as "always humble and aloof."

Others have noted this aloofness in the Sirhans, and it is not difficult to understand. In their homeland they had been an upright, Christian family, among the best educated of their class, once accustomed to financial security but uncomplaining and industrious in hard times.

All Appear Introverted

Moreover, a quarter-century of marriage to a man like Bishara had failed to break Mary's spirit. She was not a whiner, but a tight-lipped, proud, strong woman. And where her family had been noted for its privacy and silence among old acquaintances in Jerusalem, it is hardly surprising that among strangers in Pasadena they turned in on themselves even more, mending their griefs privately, trusting and confiding in few.

It is this aloofness which, while being one of the family's strengths, perhaps contributed most toward introverting the Sirhans in their new environment, in effect creating a social and cultural vacuum in which the children would have to develop as best they could, and would have to build their futures upon an emotionally impoverished past.

Mary, concerned as ever for the children's religious faith, had difficulty finding a church that suited her taste. First she tried the church of their family's benefactors, the First Nazarene Church of Pasadena, but after about a month they stopped going.

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Then there were the sporadic visits to the Syrian Orthodox Cathedral.

Then she took up the First Baptist Church in Pasadena, even enrolling Sirhan, her brightest and most devout child, in the Sunday school and group of young teens. But here, as in Jerusalem years before, the serious young Sirhan was offended by the conduct of his peers. He complained about the other youngsters' frivolity; they held hands and giggled, while he felt that church was a place for praying and reading the Bible.

They remained with the Baptists for a few years, and in late June, 1960, this church sponsored the entry into the United States of Sharif and Saidallah, by then in their late 20s.

The older brothers, long accustomed to living away from the family, soon took quarters by themselves. Saidallah in an apartment nearby, Sharif in Highland Park.

Uses Nickname

Sirhan, meanwhile, now known by his mother's nickname of "Sol," was a student, first at Longfellow Elementary School for sixth grade, where a friend now recalls, "He was a very hard worker after school—sold papers, swept out a coffee shop nearby. My parents tried often to have me behave like him, he was so polite."

But even so, Sirhan was different from his schoolmates. Scholastically he was behind the American school system, although two years older than his classmates. This, in addition to his small size, dark skin and accented English made him an easy target for youngsters' gibes.

By the time he moved on to Eliot Junior High School, his pattern of social conduct was unalterably fixed, never to change significantly in the years ahead. A friend at that time recalls him only as a "loner who stayed to himself a lot." When they were graduated from junior high, Sirhan signed the friend's yearbook in Arabic; the friend couldn't translate Sirhan's message, but the point was, it was distinctive, something only Sirhan could do.

Situation Improves

Outwardly, things were going well for the Sirhans in the early 1960s. Sirhan was doing well in his studies, getting "A" and "B" grades without visible effort and working after school. Ayda was an accountant, Saidallah worked occasionally as a house painter, and Adel, despite resistance from Mary, got a night job at the Fez. Sharif was an accountant for the California Baptist Convention, and Mary found a \$195-a-month job as housekeeper for the nursery school in Pasadena's Westminster Presbyterian Church. The family bought the house they had been renting, and though their payments were sometimes late, they managed to hang onto it.

But behind the facade the Sirhans had erected against the world, things were not so smooth. Pasadena police were becoming acquainted with the Sirhan brothers.

Least seriously involved with the police was Saidallah, now 36, who in 1966 was convicted in Pasadena Municipal Court of being drunk in a public place. He also is said to have accumulated a number of traffic violations, in sufficient number that in June of 1968—only two days after the Kennedy assassination — his scheduled naturalization as a U.S. citizen was cancelled indefinitely and his traffic record was cited as meriting further investigation.

The youngest son, Munir, now 21, had progressively failing eyesight, a worry to him and his family. One day in 1963, when he was 15, he sneaked away in Saidallah's car and promptly smashed into a telephone pole because he could not see well enough to drive.

Three years later, in May, 1966 Munir was arrested in Flagstaff, Ariz., and pleaded guilty to a vagrancy charge. He couldn't meet bail and served 15 days in jail.

The next month, he was arrested and charged with

possession and sale of marijuana to an undercover narcotics agent. In October he was convicted and sentenced to five years' probation — one year to be served in jail — but early in 1967 the conviction was set aside since he was a juvenile at the time. Deportation proceedings against Munir were dropped in mid-1968, after his appeal on grounds that his was a juvenile offense.

Most seriously involved with the police was the eldest, Sharif, now 37. In May, 1963, Sharif was in an auto accident and suffered whiplash injuries to his back, neck and head. His supervisor in the Baptist accounting office, George Matas, said Sharif seemed to "withdraw from the group and from society. He complained of headaches, said his eyes hurt. His work deteriorated. We finally had to let him go."

The family was so embittered at Sharif's dismissal that they quit the Baptist church. That was in December. That same month, Sharif was arrested and charged with attempted murder after a romance which went on the rocks.

One Dec. 18, Sharif was arrested while in the act of sawing through the hydraulic brake lines of his girl friend's car. He was convicted of tampering with the auto and placed on one year's probation.

Ayda, meanwhile, in a surprisingly independent move for an Arab daughter, had gone off alone to Palm Springs, to work in a date shop run by a man named Mennell. Mary was closest to Ayda and opposed the move, but Ayda, in her mid-20s, was apparently possessed of

"His children did not speak in the house. They were afraid of the father."

some of Mary's own strength and determination.

She married Mennell, several years her senior, in 1961, and when she revealed the marriage to her family, a bitter scene ensued. Sharif, the eldest male, beat his wilful sister with a shoe, and Ayda fled.

Ayda later died of leukemia, and Sharif, a friend said, was so overcome with remorse that "he cried like a baby."

Throughout this period of the family's life, Sirhan was the least outgoing but most promising of the sons. It was Sirhan who would put the family on the map, everyone agreed: he was serious-minded, religious, polite, devoted to his mother, absorbed in books. One neighbor recalls he thought he might go into dentistry. Another felt he was better suited to a more intellectual pursuit — teaching, perhaps, or religious work.

It is a curious facet of Sirhan's personality that by that time—insofar as it is recalled by his acquaintances—he had a peculiar facility for showing only certain sides of his nature to certain groups of people—and never very much to anyone. The recollections of different persons have

about Sirhan are strangely flat and one-dimensional, dissimilar in content but strikingly similar in their lack of emotional force.

The heart-to-heart talks normal to adolescents apparently were not for him. With some family friends, for instance, he never discussed politics, yet with school friends he rarely discussed anything else.

His grades at John Muir High School were good and classmates remember him as very smart, very quiet, inclined to be somewhat competitive and given to discouragement when bested.

One of his better friends was Curtis Townsend, a Negro who lived not far away.

"He was a smart boy," says Townsend. "He caught on quick. We ran around with an interracial group, and we used to have contests to see who could get the highest grades on tests. He got discouraged if he didn't win."

Townsend also recalls how "a kid teased him because he often showed up at school with mixed pairs of socks—each of a different color—and Sirhan told him to lay off. He'd speak up if he was crossed. But it was funny, he was always doing something like that, maybe out of absentmindedness. Like in sports, for instance, kids made fun of him because he'd show up for sports, him with his 30-inch waist in 36 trousers. He'd just look funny."

Sirhan used to talk of going back to Jordan someday, Townsend says, and "he gave me the impression that when he got back to Jordan he'd be somebody big—a prince or something. He used to talk about going back to help his people."

Throughout his entire time in high school, Townsend says, he cannot recall a single girl Sirhan ever dated, or expressed an interest in, with one possible exception. However, this girl, when interviewed, said she not only never had dated Sirhan but could not recall him at all.

Mideast History

A girl in Sirhan's history class recalls that that was one of his better subjects and that he often used to come to class early or stay late to talk to the history teacher, Darwin Russell. Sirhan's card at the Pasadena Public Library bears out this observation; almost all of the books he checked out dealt with the Middle East.

William Spaniard, now in Saigon, recalls that Sirhan was "a taciturn individual who didn't say very much: friendly, really pleasant, but hard to get to know. He was brilliant. He was studying Russian when everyone else was barely getting by in Spanish and English."

Swedish foreign exchange student Christian Ek—now in Stockholm—says Sirhan "dreamed of being something big in Jordan after his studies in the United States. He was a calm, well-mannered boy, nothing evil about him." But Robert Chase, now of Glendale, remembers him as "so quiet and such a weirdie that at assemblies he wouldn't stand for the National Anthem."

Still another classmate, now in Mexico City, says Sirhan was "always so shy you hardly knew he was there. He sat in the back

of the class, never saying much of anything.

When Sirhan did say anything, others recall, it was almost always on the subject of politics, civil rights or, most often, the Middle East. Then, they say, he would become impassioned and make bitterly anti-Zionist statements.

Because of his lack of stature, Sirhan was not good at sports and disliked physical education classes, so he switched to R.O.T.C. He also was a member of the junior and senior class councils at John Muir, and is remembered by John McGrain, president of the council, as a likable fellow who seemed left out.

In the fall of 1963, Sirhan went on to Pasadena City College, a two-year institution that fell short of his dream of a college career. His grades continued to be above average.

His social life continued to be almost non-existent, consisting mainly of occasional cups of coffee with students at a hamburger place across from the campus.

Occasionally Adel, now 30, would take Sirhan with him to the Fez, where Sirhan would play the tamboura, a kind of drum. But these visits were infrequent, since Sirhan didn't date and his mother disapproved of nightclubs.

There were only two fleeting encounters with girls at this period. At PCC he became interested in a girl named Gwendolyn Gum and phoned her a few times for dates, but she was always busy. At one school carnival he sought to impress Gwendolyn, who was running a booth, by buying \$10 worth of votes from her at a penny a vote. Nothing happened. She never dated him.

Names in Diary

On another occasion, when he and others were in Newport Beach, Sirhan bought a soft drink for a girl named Peggy Ostercamp. That was the extent of his outward involvement with her.

Inwardly, Sirhan evidently fantasied these encounters as hopeful signs. He was in the habit of keeping an informal diary, and both girls' names are written in it, with names of other people Sirhan either wished or imagined were his friends.

From his late teens into college, he also attended meetings of the Organization of Arab Students, a loosely organized group whose status fluctuated from burgeoning to defunct, largely in response to the changing enthusiasms of its student membership. The group in Pasadena now is disbanded.

Sam Farraj, a Jordanian—now a medical lab technician living in Arcadia—has known the Sirhan family for many years. He knew Saidallah in Jerusalem and was once a close friend of Sharif. Sirhan, Adel and Sharif used to attend OAS meetings, Farraj says, and he recalls that Sirhan was an ardent nationalist, extremely anti-Zionist but not, he stresses, anti-Jewish.

At some point in late 1964 or early 1965, Sirhan's dreams of education and a profession began to fade and his studies took a sharp turn for the worse. By the end of his second year at PCC he was flunking every subject, and on the advice of a teacher, he dropped out of school. Once the faintest hope of his family, he now was not even qualified to continue his education at an upper division university.

What triggered this pre-

cipitous change in the grades that had always meant so much to him is not known. During this time Ayda's illness was wasting her life, and in March of 1965 she died. Perhaps the loss of his strong-willed, self-sufficient sister was more than he could withstand. But perhaps not, for emotional bonds among the Sirhan family were never the subject of outside discussion. From this time on, however, Sirhan was no longer the serious, scholarly boy.

For a while he worked at filling stations, but then another plan came to him. He had long been fond of horse racing, often spending afternoons at Santa Anita, where he would bet freely, sometimes losing every nickel, sometimes winning heavily.

So he decided to become a jockey. He had always been poor in sports, but as a jockey his lack of size would be an advantage. Perhaps it crossed his mind that successful jockeys were not made to feel unmanly, however small they were.

As a first step, Sirhan got a state license as an exercise boy and a "hot walker"—one who walks horses around to cool them down after a workout. He took a job at the Granja Vista del Rio ranch near Corona in the summer of 1966. But in September he fell from a horse and landed on his head.

Sirhan was "generally banged up" from the fall, one doctor said, and was hospitalized overnight for observation. At that time,

no major injury was noted, but Sirhan soon complained of impaired eyesight and insisted upon further treatment.

An ophthalmologist examined Sirhan in November and December, after Sirhan had complained of pain and blurred vision, but tests showed nothing wrong with Sirhan's eyes. When the doctor refused to write a letter confirming the alleged eye injury, he said Sirhan threatened him.

In July of 1967, no longer at the ranch, Sirhan filed a disability claim for workmen's compensation. The insurance firm, rather than dispute the claim, settled out of court for \$2,000. In February, 1968, after paying medical and legal fees, Sirhan had a nest egg of \$1,700—and no further hope of being a jockey.

Sirhan's fall is reminiscent of Sharif's 1963 auto accident, in light of the fact that Mary has since said Sirhan's behavior changed after the fall. "He didn't seem to be hurt too bad, I mean physically," she said. "But he changed

"He was a clever boy — very quick — but unstable and very unhappy . . ."

somehow. After that accident, we seemed not so close any more. I couldn't even get through to him when we talked."

Whether or not Sirhan incurred some barely detectable but nonetheless affective brain damage is the subject of much speculation today. A defense attorney has indicated this possibility will be exhaustively probed.

For several months after leaving the ranch, Sirhan didn't work. Finally Mary appealed on his behalf to John Weidner, owner of a Pasadena health food shop, and in late 1967 Weidner gave Sirhan a job as stock and delivery boy at \$2 an hour.

Weidner found his new employe bright, "pleasant and witty, eager to please and so honest that he soon trusted Sirhan to make bank deposits.

But he also found him quick to resent what he construed as criticism of his work. "He was a proud man with a good opinion of himself," says Weidner, adding that Sirhan visibly resented authority.

Weidner's wife, Naomi, adds "He had a lot of pride, a lot of arrogance. We were always careful how we gave him an order. If you gave him an order he didn't like he became very resentful."

Weidner, a Dutch World War II veteran who worked in the underground saving Jews from the Nazis, took a more than routine interest in the nationalistic young immigrant, and when business was slow he would lead Sirhan into conversation.

"I think he was a man of revolt," says Weidner. "He was a kind of anarchist against society, against law and order, against those who possess. Against those who have more than he has and are more successful in life." He says that when they discussed civil rights and racial disorder, Sirhan would say, "In America, freedom does not exist. I agree with the violence."

Atheistic Views

Sirhan also expressed dislike for wealthy people, said Weidner, and "a real hatred for Jews. He said the Jewish people were rich and had taken his country, so he was very angry against them."

When Weidner said Sirhan should try to forgive injustice, Sirhan answered, "I would like to be like you but I cannot."

And once, in a discussion of religion, Sirhan told Weidner, "There is no God. You see in Israel what happens to the Arab. There is no God. How can you have a God?"

Sirhan at this point had begun to explore theosophy and somehow became attracted to the Rosicrucian

ans, or Ancient Mystical Order of the Rosae Crucis, which sells mail-order courses which purport to help one unlock the psychic powers of the mind. He also corresponded with a mystically inclined man in Napa—whose identity and whereabouts are presently unknown—who confided to some theosophist friends after the Kennedy assassination that the tone of Sirhan's letters had caused him to be fearful months before that Sirhan's mental health was perhaps endangered as a result of uninformed dabbling with mystical concepts.

Mysticism aside, Sirhan evidently had not repudiated conventional religion as thoroughly as his brash arguments with Weidner would indicate. In his jail cell he still prays to the Christian God with his mother.

Adding fuel to his arguments with Weidner was the still-recent six-day war in which Israel so humiliated her Arab adversaries. Sirhan often

"I saw him walking barefoot. He said it was because his father had beat him . . . and that he took a piece of iron, heated it on the stove and put it on the boy's heel . . ."

equated the Jews' victory with the Nazis' treatment of Jews and demanded: "You think the Jews can't be cruel, too?"

Mrs. Weidner also talked with Sirhan, and she recalls one particularly memorable story. "I'm going to tell you something I've never told anyone, not even my parents," she quotes Sirhan as saying. "When I was small, I saw an Israeli soldier cut off the breasts of an Arab woman."

No Evidence

There is no evidence that he ever did tell this story, or any other, to anyone else. It is also interesting to note that of the several atrocities Bishara said his son witnessed, this one was not among them.

In March, 1968, a month after getting his disability claim, Sirhan and the Weidners fell out. There was a dispute about some order Weidner gave him. Sirhan insisted he had been called a liar. Weidner insisted he meant no such thing and attempted to patch it up, even going to Sirhan's home to talk it over. Sirhan was adamant and quit his job.

Soon after, he filed a claim for severance before the Labor Relations Board, but he lost the claim.

Meanwhile, he was still the model neighbor youth, dropping in on Mrs. Olive Blakeslee for games of Chinese checkers, talking with Mrs. Martin Pulite about how to plant a garden for his mother, or visiting with Linda Massri, a longtime family friend, about religion, psychology and books.

"We used to talk about Freud," says Mrs. Massri, herself American-born but of Syrian parentage. "We'd talk about the psychological motivations for people's actions, and Sirhan would say that God was in a person's mind."

She was especially close to Sirhan, she says. "He was like a little brother to me... I don't know where the reports of Sirhan's violent hatred toward the Israelis came from. He never discussed such feelings with me as long as I knew him. I could see all the nice things in his character. He was especially good to his mother; he was always with her. He was a well-educated and well-behaved boy, an intellectual."

And neither did Sirhan ever discuss his father with Mrs. Massri, she says, but after the assassination she wondered at some length about his feelings toward Bishara. On the day of the shooting, a badly shaken Saidallah came to see her, she says, and told her, "My father was a second Hitler."

Failed in Hopes

As the summer of 1968 drew near, Sirhan had little to look forward to. He had failed to achieve his hopes through education, his dream of becoming a jockey had turned into a bitter joke, and even jobs that he had felt beneath him had fallen by the wayside.

All he had left was the remainder of his disability claim, which he had given to his mother for safekeeping, and for which he had to argue every time he wanted money, because she feared he would waste it.

He puttered around the house, read the newspapers regularly, followed the continuing ferment in the Middle East and was interested in the accelerating political campaign here. In late April the two interests converged, in a political column in which Sen. Kennedy was criticized for his support of the Israeli cause. Sirhan cut out the column and put it in his wallet.

The Fatal Day

He also jotted down his own political thoughts, we are told, in a couple of stenographic notebooks—anti-Israeli, pro-Arab thoughts—and sometime about the middle of May, the notation that Kennedy must die before June 5.

On the morning of Tuesday, June 4—election day—Sirhan lounged around the house for most of the morning. He was at home when his mother left for work at 8 a.m. and he was still there around noon.

By early afternoon he was at the pistol range of the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, where he practiced rapid firing of several hundred rounds until about 5 p.m.

Met Acquaintance

Then he drifted over to Bob's Big Boy hamburger stand, next to PCC, where he met a casual acquaintance, also an Arab, named Gaymoard Mistri. After talking for a while they walked over to the PCC cafeteria, where they met three more of Sirhan's slight acquaintances, Abdul Jabra Malki, Marouf Badran and Anour Saigh.

None of the four knew Sirhan well enough to sense his real frame of mind—for no one had ever known him well—but he seemed, they said, to be in a good mood. They chatted desultorily about nothing special until about 7:15, when the others had to excuse themselves and go to evening classes.

Sirhan waved a casual good night and strolled off into the early evening toward his car.

The polls would be closing soon, the voting would be over. All but his. It was time he was getting to the Ambassador.

14

Last spring, about the time the leaves were budding, a man decided to test that recurrent, highest promise of the American dream. He decided to run for President.

Robert Francis Kennedy was fortune's darling, some said. Son of one of America's wealthiest families, influential senator, brother to a martyred President and, as the martyr took on the lineaments of folk-hero, heir to an incomparably rich political legacy of goodwill and sympathy. He was the new exponent of the legendary Kennedy mystique, idealism's new standard-bearer, the new champion of the poor.

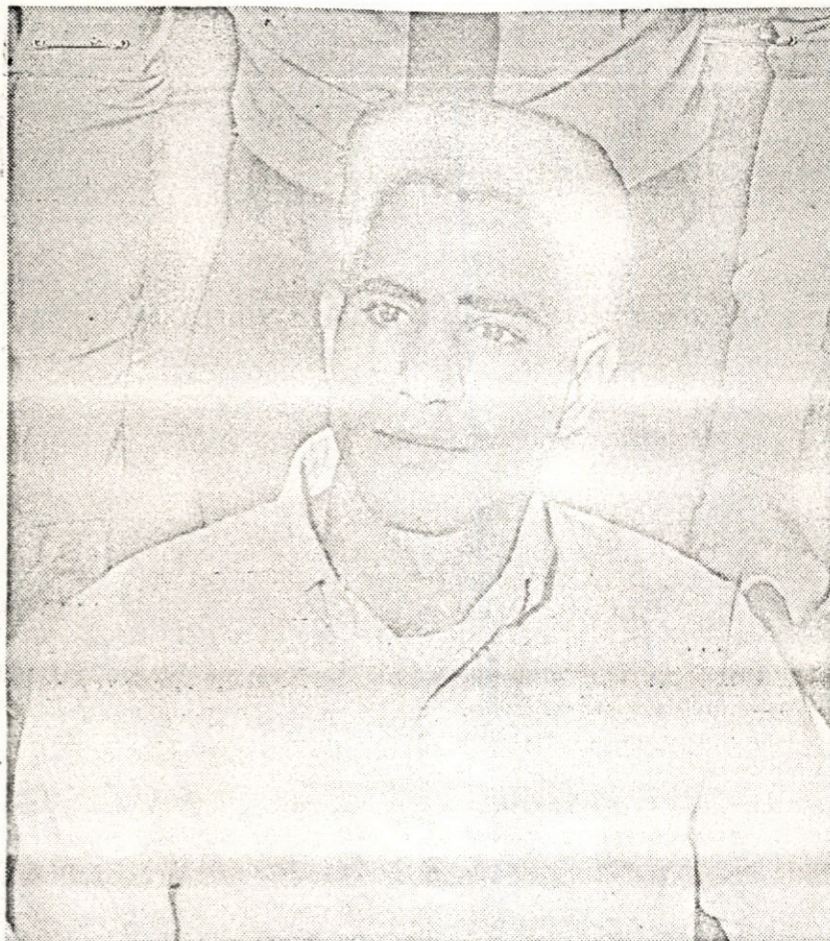
Now it is winter, the world is no newer, and those same leaves have long since fallen on a hillside in Virginia, skittering drily across the grave of Robert Francis Kennedy. Alongside the brother whose dreams he shared and from whose torch he took his fire, Robert Kennedy also faces now the city that was Camelot to both. The season advances, the world rolls, the people have selected another, not Kennedy.

And in the night, when the wind blows across the Potomac River and up the forlorn Arlington hillside of the dead, Robert's grave is lit by the fitful flicker of the eternal flame that burns above John, but shares the light.

One man decided that Robert F. Kennedy should not be President of the United States. The voters who might have elected him were disenfranchised by a gun. Hopes were pinned elsewhere or abandoned, old allegiances forgotten, new ones made—all because of one little man with a .22 pistol.

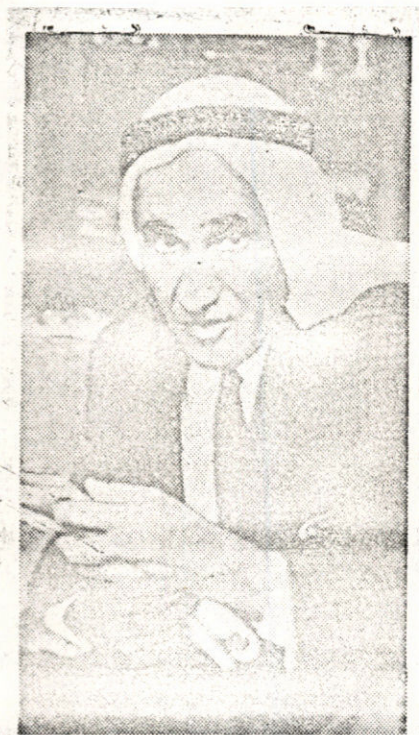
The assassin's name is Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, and though he has pleaded innocent, that he shot Kennedy is beyond dispute; he was seized before he finished shooting. What is pertinent, and what the defense will hinge upon, his attorney says, is "Why did he do it? Is he responsible?"

These questions may one day be answered, hopefully at Sirhan's trial which opens Tuesday. It would be socially profitable for us to know.



HIS NAME MEANS 'WANDERER'—He was injured in the war between the Arabs and Israelis in 1948, his father says of Sirhan Sirhan, not physically, but "woundings, sufferings in his head and heart."

Times photo



THE PATRIARCH—Bishara Sirhan, head of his family, states in his village near Jerusalem that son Sirhan suffered traumatic experiences in Arab-Israeli war in 1948.

UPI photo



A MOTHER'S TEARS—Mrs. Mary Sirhan, weeping in the arms of a neighbor, Mrs. Clarence C. Robinson, believed that her son Sirhan was the most promising of her children. Mrs. Sirhan attempted to keep her family together despite a divorce from her husband.



AT ARRAIGNMENT—Sirhan B. Sirhan is taken by officers into court for arraignment hours after the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy at Ambassador.
Times photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Trial Starts; Three Ways to Go

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, goes on trial for murder today in a historic case which conceivably could cost him his life, send him to a mental institution, or see him go free.

The charge is that he killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in an Ambassador Hotel kitchen early on the morning of June 5, 1968.

Sirhan's will be the first major political assassination trial in this country since Leon Czolgosz was tried for the murder of President William McKinley in Erie County Court at Buffalo, N.Y., in 1902.

Defense counsel are Grant B. Cooper, widely known criminal lawyer; Russell E. Parsons, veteran criminal and appeals lawyer and New York attorney Emile Zola Berman, known for

his 1956 defense of Marine Sgt. Matthew McKeon in the Camp Lejeune "death march" case.

Opposing this trio is a team from the office of Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger led by Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn Compton. Backstopping Compton are Dep. Dist. Attys. David N. Fitts and John Howard.

First order of business ordered for today by Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, who will preside, is submission of a number of defense motions.

Cooper and Parsons delivered these to Judge Walker at a pre-trial conference yesterday, but the decision of that conference was that no motion in the trial should be submitted or argued except in open court.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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It is understood that in one of the motions the defense seeks copies of the statements taken by the prosecution from its listed preliminary witnesses. That list was furnished Parsons last Oct. 22.

In order for security to be maintained over Sirhan, the conference was held in the temporary 13th floor Hall of Justice courtroom in which nearly all preliminaries in the case have been handled. Today's case will open in Dept. 107—an eighth-floor courtroom in the Hall of Justice which has been armored and sealed within a security perimeter for the young Jordanian's trial.

Newsmen and spectators entering the courtroom will be carefully searched before entering, but prospective jurors will

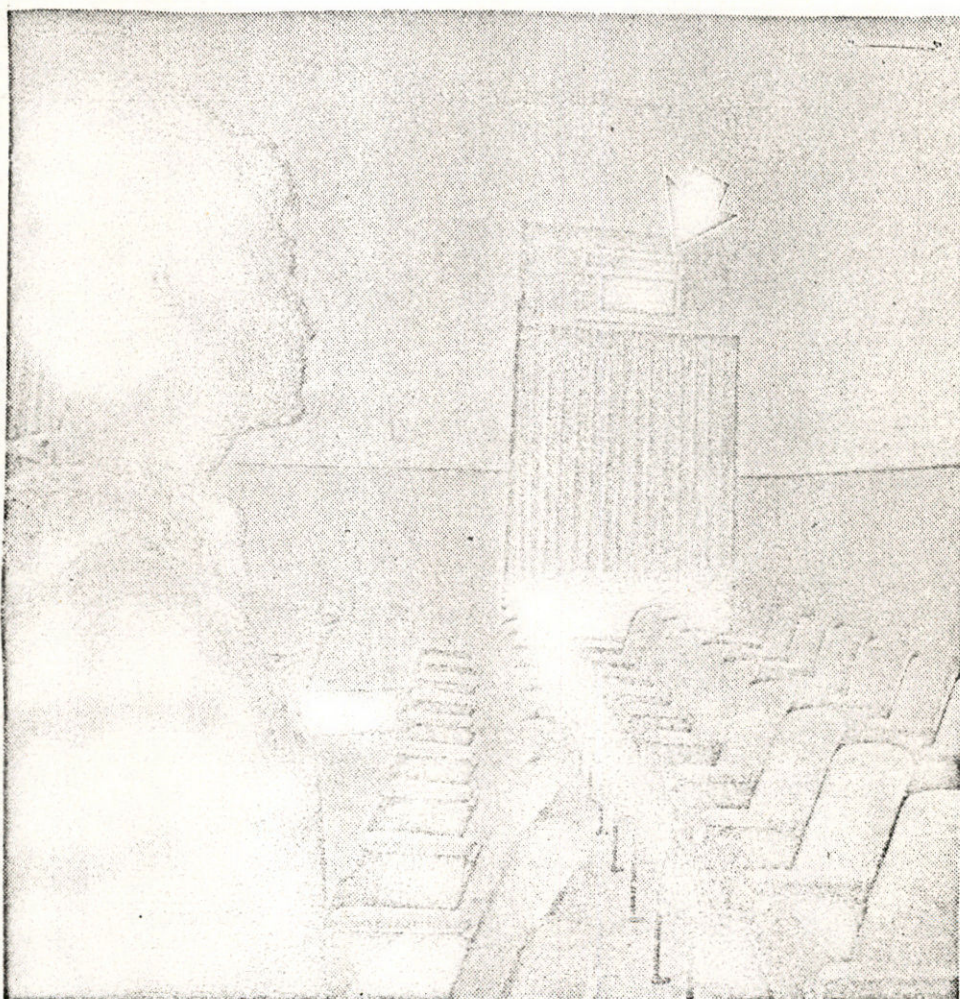
not, a court attache said yesterday.

He said that no special provisions for selection of the Sirhan jurors had been made. They will be selected from the county's regular jury pool.

Panels of 25 prospective jurors each will be drawn and taken to a waiting room in the old Hall of Records, then transferred to the courtroom when they are needed.

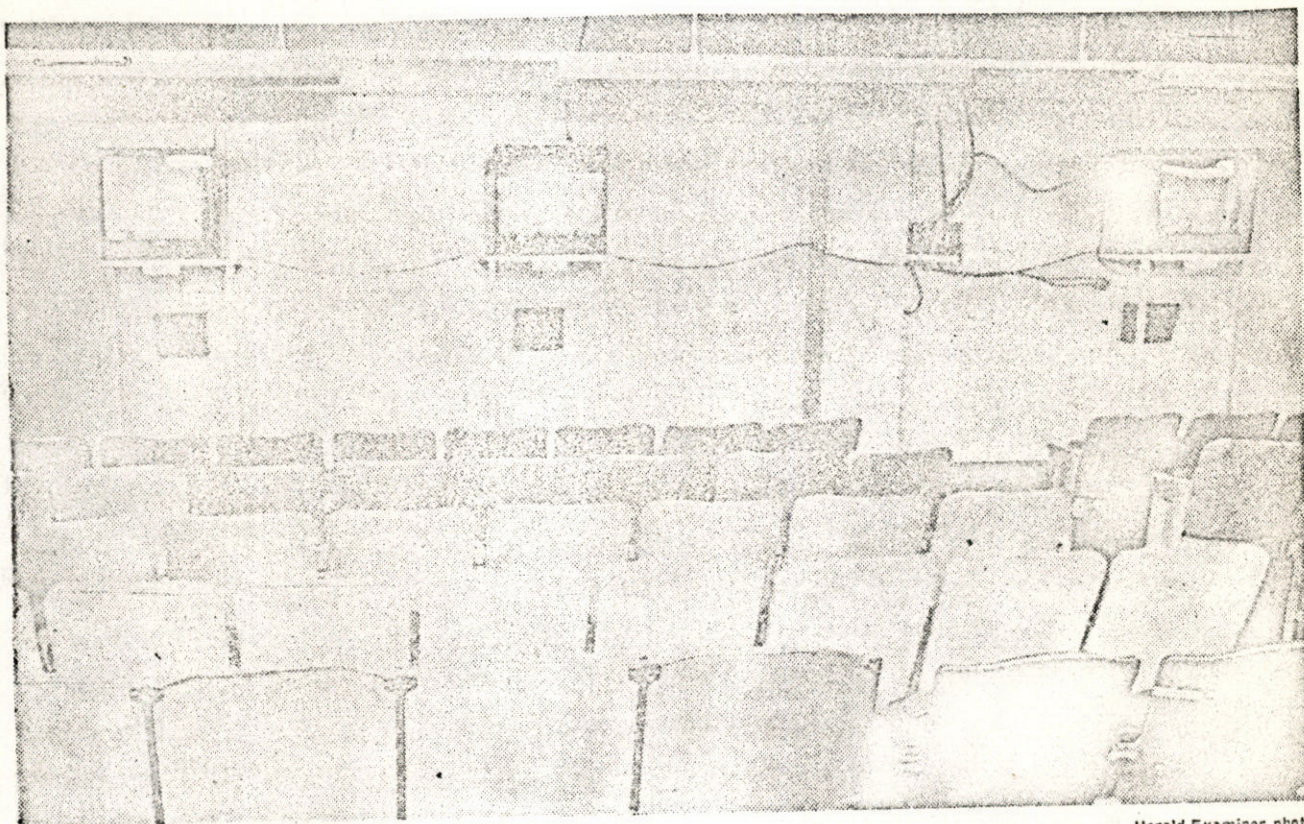
Jury selection which may take as long as three weeks, will follow submission of the defense motions.

Once the jury is selected, it will be "sequestered"—locked up for the duration of the trial.



—Herald-Examiner photo

COURT CLERK ALICE NISHIKAWA EYES HIDDEN TV CAMERA
It will survey Sirhan trial from position in air conditioner (arrow).



—Herald-Examiner photo

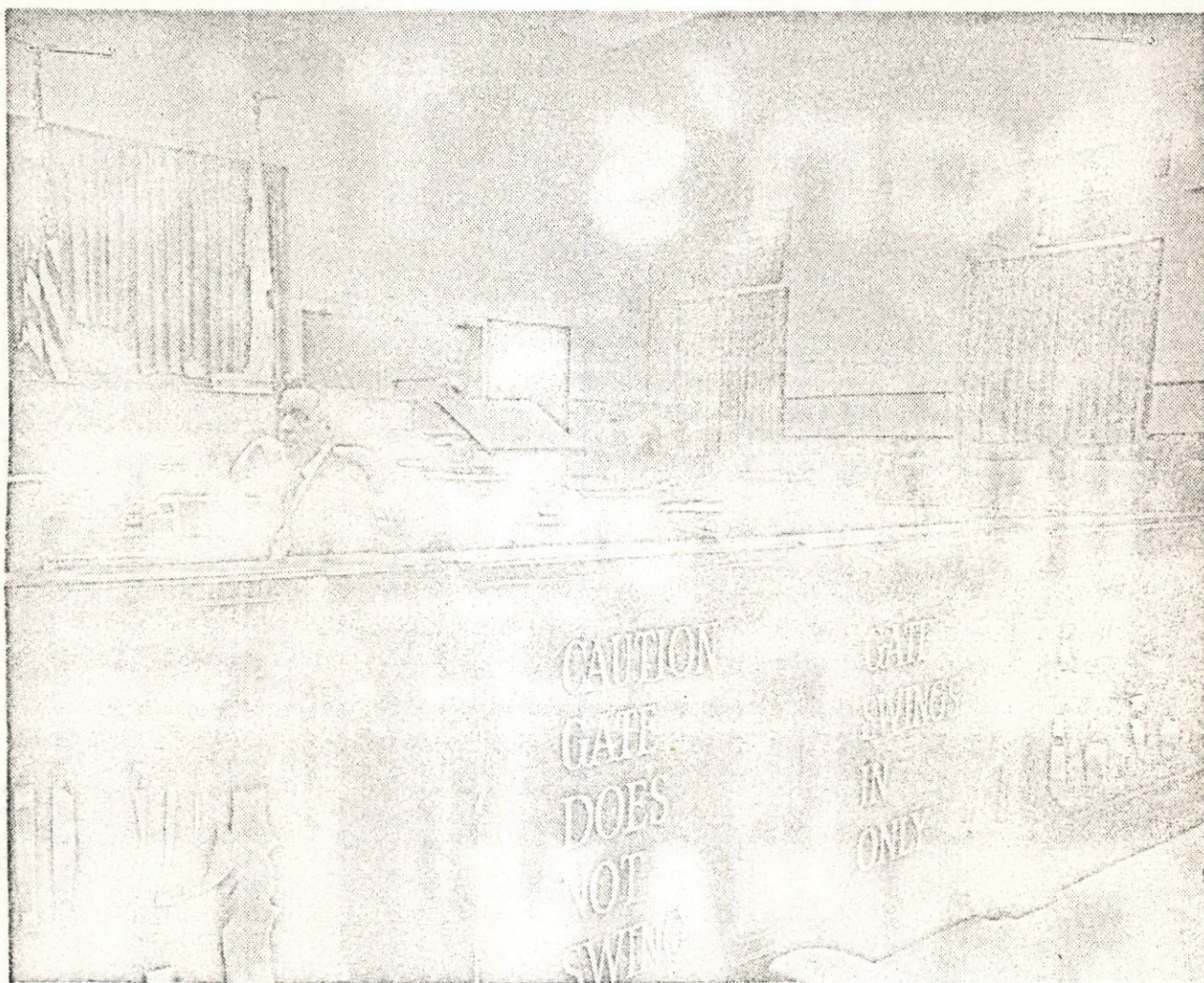
TELEVISION MONITORS IN OVERFLOW PRESS ROOM WILL AID IN TRIAL COVERAGE

Closed-circuit network has been set up in the Hall of Justice Building.



—Herald-Examiner photo

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT WALKER
He presides at trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan



—Herald-Examiner photo

SIRHAN WILL BE TRIED IN THIS HEAVILY SECURED COURTROOM
Elaborate precautions for his safety have been taken, including bullet-proofing of the area

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan's Trial Opens, Recesses Until Today After Brief Session

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

The long-postponed trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan began in a heavily guarded Hall of Justice courtroom Tuesday and proceeded briefly before defense maneuvers delayed it again.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker took the bench at 9:40 a.m. and formally opened the case of the People vs. Sirhan, the slight youth charged with the murder of Robert F. Kennedy.

But immediately one of Sirhan's attorneys asked that a closed session be held in Judge Walker's chambers to discuss a motion neither the court nor attorneys would describe to newsmen—although there were reports it was a request for yet another postponement in the celebrated case.

After an hour in chambers, four motions were introduced in court. The argument on motions was continued until the trial resumes this afternoon.

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper made the four motions, two of which were denied.

Two Motions Set for Today

Today's session will take up a defense motion to set aside Sirhan's plea of not guilty, then to a motion to set aside the indictment.

The first motion is a legal technicality; an indictment cannot be quashed while a plea stands. After a plea is withdrawn, if another indictment is returned, the original plea may be re-entered.

It had been anticipated that Cooper, 65, now under federal grand jury investigation arising from the Friars Club card-cheating case, would seek a fourth continuance of Sirhan's trial, on grounds that the publicity involving himself might be prejudicial to Sirhan's right to a fair trial.

Two minutes after Judge Walker took the bench Cooper asked for a closed session in the judge's chambers to consider a motion which, Cooper said, "would only complicate matters" if introduced in open court.

Judge Walker, Sirhan and attorneys for the defense and prosecution withdrew to chambers for more than an hour. Cooper introduced his four legal motions upon their reappearance at 11:16 a.m. The session was adjourned shortly afterward.

But in a corridor news conference after adjournment, Cooper was asked to comment on speculation that he might seek a continuance because of his involvement with the federal grand jury.

"I'm not allowed to comment on anything that was discussed in chambers," Cooper said, thus indicating that the topic was at least discussed.

Reason Indicated for Rejection

It would also indicate that Judge Walker rejected a continuance on those grounds, since the four motions Cooper introduced in court did not touch on the Friars Club investigation.

Of the four, Judge Walker denied Cooper's motion to impanel two juries—one to decide the question of guilt or innocence, the other to set a penalty if Sirhan is found guilty—and a motion that prospective jurors be given written questions to answer as a time-saving device during jury selection.

Cooper said he and his two associates in the Sirhan defense, Russell F. Parsons, 69, and New York attorney Emile Zola Berman,

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65, would seek to quash the first-degree murder indictment by attacking the system by which grand juries and petit juries are selected.

Parsons, after adjournment, said the defense teams feel the grand jury that indicted Sirhan last June 6 "was not a proper cross-section." Parsons said such juries frequently exclude women, minority group members and people of various professions.

Grand juries are selected after nomination by Superior Court judges, while petit juries are selected from lists of voters.

14 Women on Jury

(The 23-member County Grand Jury that indicted Sirhan contained 14 women—believed to be the most ever on an L.A. County Grand Jury.)

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton objected to Cooper's motion to name two juries, contending that California law did not intend, though it does allow, separate juries for the trial and penalty phases.

Compton said it would be "very premature and improper to announce now that there will be two juries," but if that becomes warranted during the course of Sirhan's trial, "the court, at its own discretion, can do so later."

Cooper countered that "the law is a living, growing thing. The law yesterday is no longer the law today."

Judge Walker denied the motion, but said he would entertain its reintroduction later as circumstances warrant.

In arguing for the submission of written questions for prospective jurors, Cooper said it would save time in what would otherwise, he estimated, take as long as six weeks for jury selection.

Question of Consultations

But Judge Walker denied this motion, saying "we have no real experience to go by in this state, particularly in this court" regarding this procedure. He added that if jurors were given written questions, "there could be some consultations" about how to answer.

Compton said the prosecution team—including Dep. Dist. Attorneys John E. Howard and David N. Fitts—was ready to argue Cooper's motion to set aside the plea, "in the morning or this afternoon, if necessary."

Cooper requested, however, that the trial be recessed till 2 p.m. today "because I have other commitments."

Judge Walker, smiling broadly, granted the request.

Cooper appeared in federal court at 1 p.m. Tuesday, where he was ordered to answer questions by the federal grand jury.

Sat Close to Parsons

Throughout the brief proceedings, Sirhan, clad in a new blue-gray suit, remained silent. He sat close to Parsons, first attorney to enter the defense, and gazed nervously at the public area of the 75-seat courtroom.

The seats were divided about evenly between security officers and newsmen, with only five members of the general public admitted after the trial began.

In two seats in the back row sat the defendant's mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, 55, of Pasadena, and Munir (Joe) Sirhan, 21, the only one of Sirhan's four brothers in this area to attend the first day of trial.

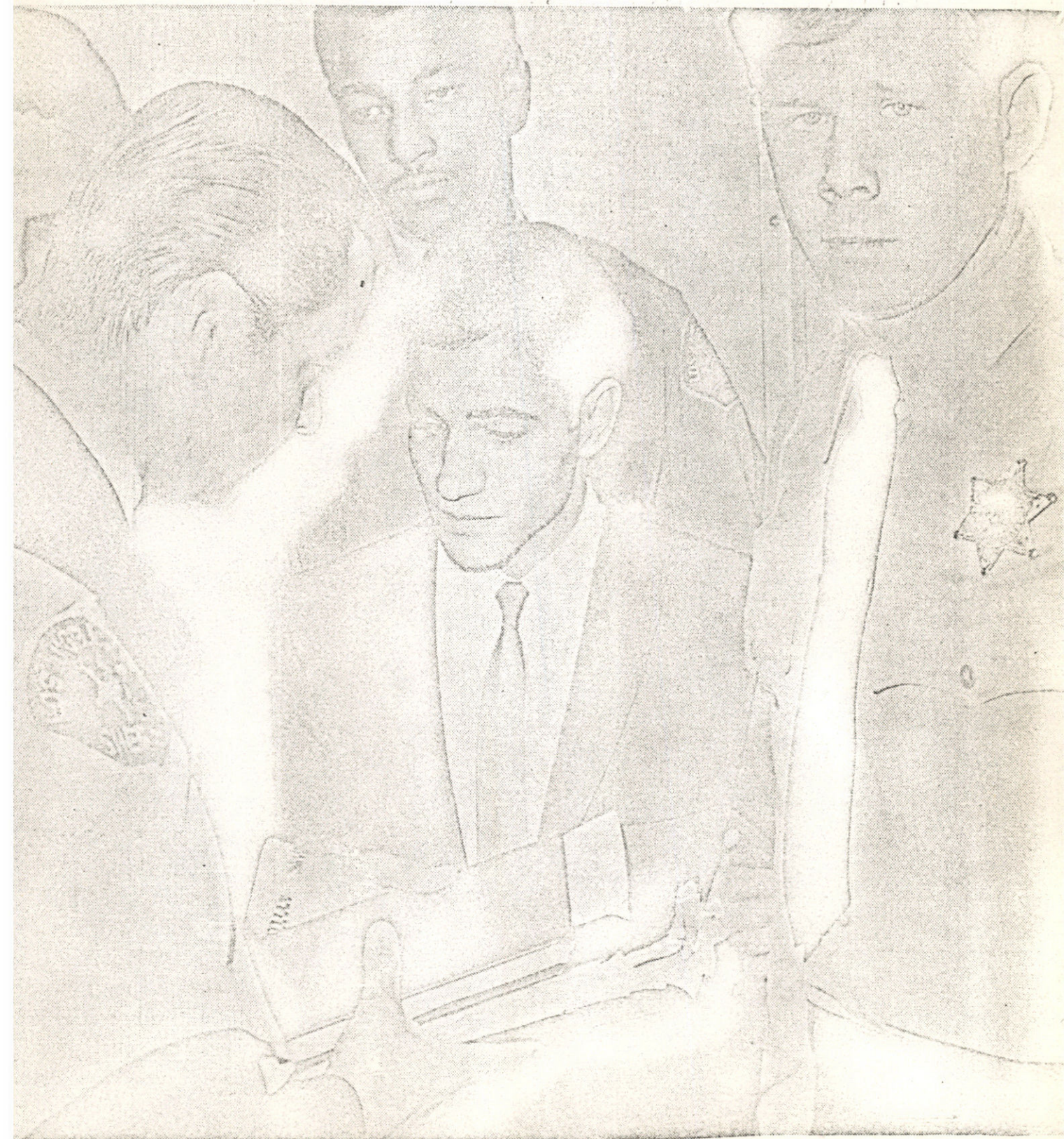


TRIAL BEGINS—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is escorted by a defense attorney, Russell E. Parsons, on arrival

at courtroom in the Hall of Justice for the start of his trial in the slaying of Robert F. Kennedy.

UPI photo

Sirhan Arrives Under Heavy Guard



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

INDEXED — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, ringed by deputy sheriffs, is handed
to his defense investigator Michael A. McGowan on way to courtroom

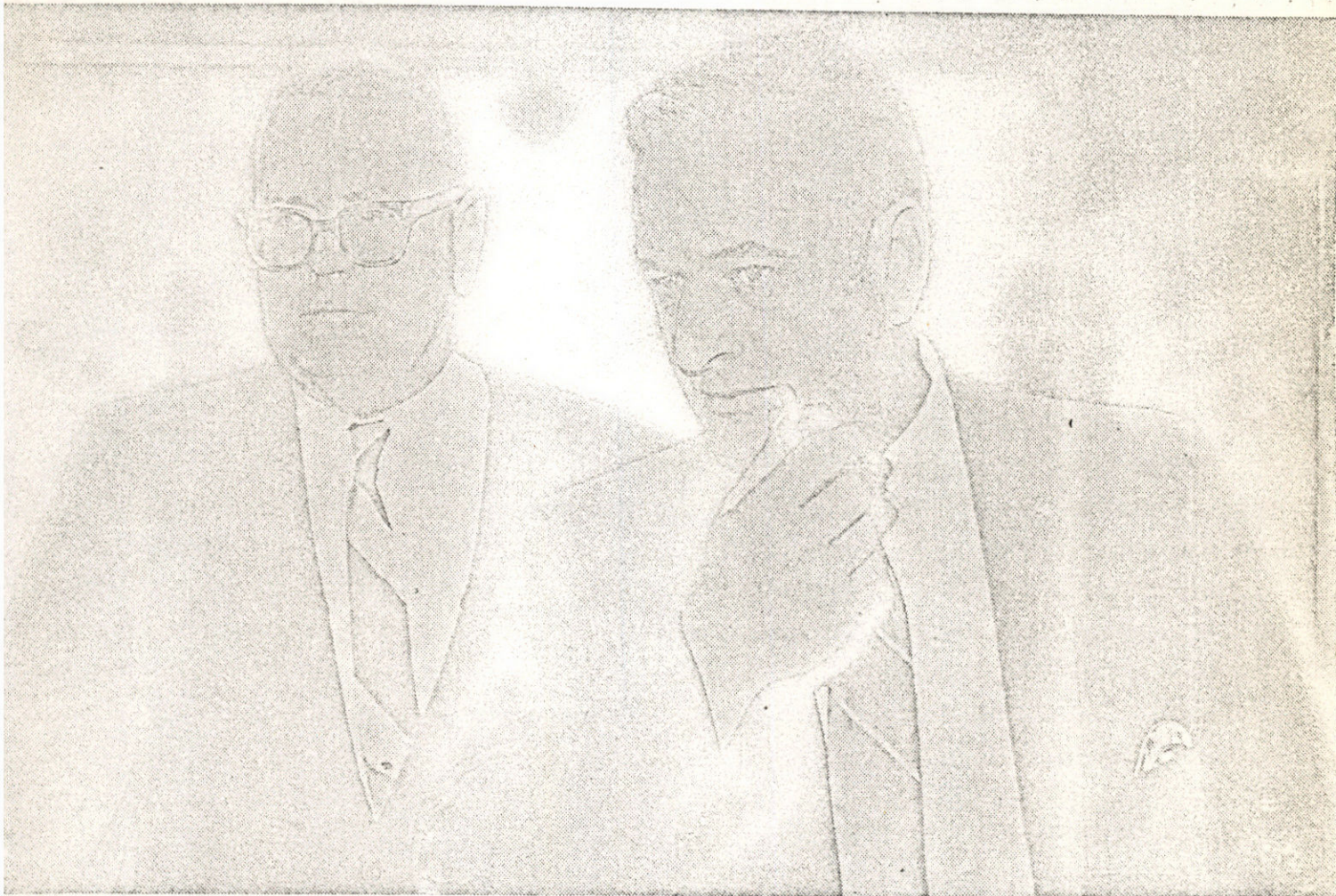


MOTHER ARRIVES—Mrs. Mary Sirhan, 55, of Pasadena, is escorted to the courtroom by another son, Munir (Joe) Sirhan, 21. They had seats in back row. Times photos by John Malmin



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Attorneys for the Prosecution and Defense



PROSECUTION — Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, with pipe, and Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard arriving.



THE DEFENSE — Attorneys Grant B. Cooper, on left, with one of his two associates in trial, Emile Zola Berman of New York.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Lawyers Seeking To Rescind Not Guilty Plea

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Efforts by defense lawyers to make precedent-setting law in California today delayed selection of a jury in the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, accused as the slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Chief defense council Grant B. Cooper has indicated that testimony he wants to introduce in support of one of his legal maneuvers will be lengthy. At one point in yesterday's proceeding, he suggested a 30-day delay in the trial to iron out legal points.

Cooper's suggestion, which never reached the formal motion stage, was brushed aside by Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, presiding over the trial.

Arguments today centered around attempts by Cooper to get Judge Walker to "set aside" Sirhan's plea of "not guilty" to the indictment returned against him by the County Grand Jury June 7, 1968.

That indictment charges him with murder in the slaying of Sen. Kennedy early the morning of June 5, 1968, in a kitchen off the Ambassador Hotel's Embassy Room.

Cooper has made it clear that the reason he wants the plea set aside is to lay the groundwork for an attack against the 1968 Los Angeles County Grand Jury, and California's Grand Jury selection system in general.

The system has been attacked before, and at the level of the State Supreme Court the attacks have been unsuccessful. However, Cooper points out that the attack against the system is being carried to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Cooper has assailed selection of the 1968 Grand Jury on the grounds that the system which permits judges to nominate Grand Jury candidates, who are then chosen by a spin of the wheel, inherently excludes "members of some minority

groups and persons of some national background."

The legal concept of "timeliness" could mitigate against Cooper's move to withdraw the "not guilty" plea, even though withdrawal of the plea is but a technical maneuver. The concept's rationale is that there was a proper time and place for Cooper's argument, and that it may not have been made.

The chief defense counsel's answer to that is: "I wasn't in the case then."

(Cooper joined defense attorney Russell E. Parsons in the Sirhan case last month after conclusion of the Friars Club card cheating trial. The third defense lawyer, Emile Zola Ber- man of New York, joined his colleagues even later.)

In yesterday's proceedings Cooper lost two of his moves. He failed:

- To get Judge Walker to agree to two juries in the case—one to hear the evidence, the other to set the penalty, should

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there be a first degree murder conviction.

○ To get the jurist to assent to written, instead of oral, examination of prospective jurors.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lynn Compton, who heads the prosecution, opposed both moves. Walker rejected the two-jury request out of hand, and denied the plea for written examinations on the grounds that the jury prospects might act in collusion in filling out written questionnaires.

At a post session news conference yesterday Cooper confirmed speculation that the Sirhan defense will be based on legal and psychological grounds.

He said:

"The defense will not deny Sirhan shot Kennedy. A lot of people saw him.

"The defense will be along other lines."

Motions introduced at yesterday's session indicated these other grounds:

○ An attack on California's petit (trial) jury system because it automatically excuses

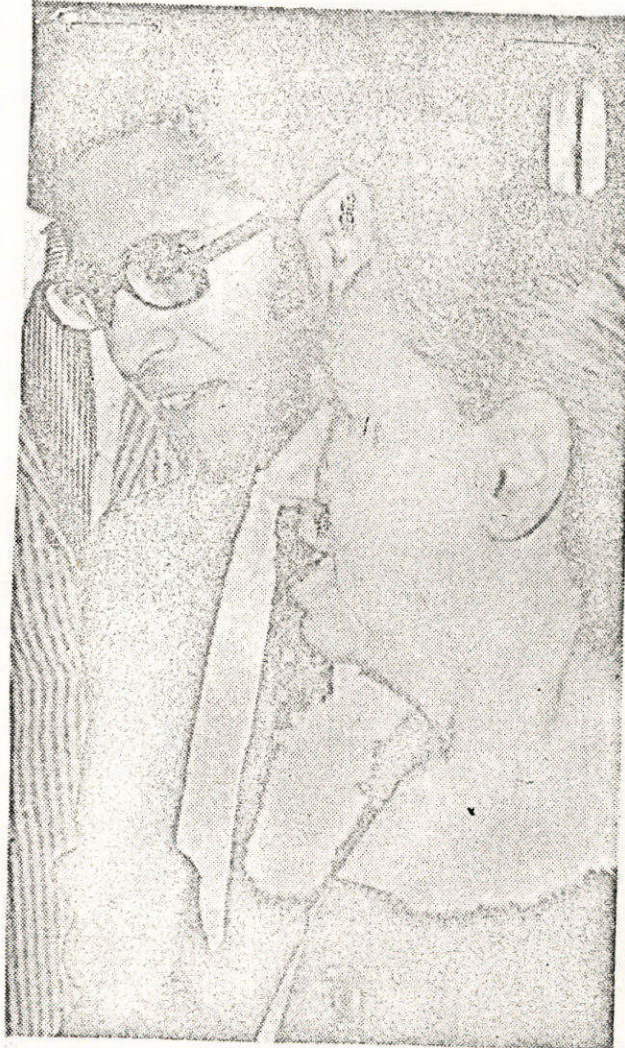
members of certain professions from jury service.

○ Another attempt to overthrow the system which allows the same jury to decide guilt or innocence in a first degree murder case, and then to deliberate again as to what penalty the defendant shall suffer.

The defense maintains the law which permits automatic excusing of lawyers, physicians, teachers and nurses from jury duty, denies "whole classes of people" to a defendant as jurors in his trial.

The so-called penalty jury system Cooper maintains is "clearly unconstitutional." Although he denied this plea yesterday, Judge Walker made it clear he did not foreclose the defense from putting it forth a second time.

Finally, it is clear that the defense has not abandoned, but on the contrary continues to work to develop, defenses of "diminished capacity" aimed at showing that Sirhan's reasoning faculties may have been impaired at the time Kennedy was shot.



—Associated Press Wirephoto

SIRHAN'S MOTHER, BROTHER LEAVE COURT
Mary, Munir Sirhan attended opening day of trial



ATTORNEY RUSSELL PARSONS LEADS APPREHENSIVE SIRHAN
They were on way to courtroom for beginning session of murder trial.

—UPI Telephoto

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Officers Search One Another Before Trial

BY ROBERT RAWITCH

Times Staff Writer

Security precautions at the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan trial Tuesday reached the point where deputy sheriffs were searching each other before entering an auxiliary courtroom where the proceedings were shown on closed circuit television to newsmen.

The newsmen were astounded by the extraordinary security precautions in a room four floors below where the trial was taking place on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice.

A Sheriff's Department spokesman said the practice of deputies searching each other was a part of the "total security" program for the trial to assure that no unauthorized weapons, cameras, or recording devices were brought into restricted areas.

"If anything should happen, we want to make sure none of our men are responsible for smuggling anything in and giving it to a spectator," the spokesman said.

Newsmen Also Searched

About 40 newsmen were thoroughly searched for hidden recording equipment or cameras before being allowed to enter the specially equipped room with its three closed circuit television receivers. The room is being used to accommodate the overflow of newsmen who cannot get in the relatively small courtroom.

Forty more newsmen were admitted to the eighth-floor courtroom while television cameramen and photographers waited in the halls.

Newsmen without special credentials were not even admitted to the auxiliary room.

Those entering the courtroom were searched even more thoroughly. Men were searched in a hallway and checked for concealed weapons

with a metal detector, while the women were taken into a separate room and searched by female deputies.

No one was allowed to leave or enter the courtroom once the proceedings started.

By Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's order officially extending the courtroom to include the fourth-floor room, numerous corridors were ruled as "restricted areas" where photographers were prohibited.

But photographers and television cameramen shadowed Sirhan's attorneys—Grant Cooper, Russell E. Parsons and Emil Zola Berman—as they entered the courtroom area. The same was true for his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan.

Five From Public at Trial

Despite the tight security precautions five members of the general public were allowed to witness the trial of the man accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

After filling out a detailed form with identifying information and being searched like everyone else, the five were allowed to enter the courtroom.

Mrs. Beth Peck, of 122 Mountain View Ave., said she visits the Hall of Justice daily to view trials and regularly attended the widely-publicized 1959 trial of Dr. Bernard Finch, who, along with his girlfriend Carole Tregoff, were accused of slaying Finch's estranged wife.

All five said their primary motivation for attending the trial was general curiosity to see what Sirhan is like.

One woman when asked upon leaving the courtroom if she was bored with the highly technical nature of the proceedings answered:

"How can you be bored when a man's life is at stake?"

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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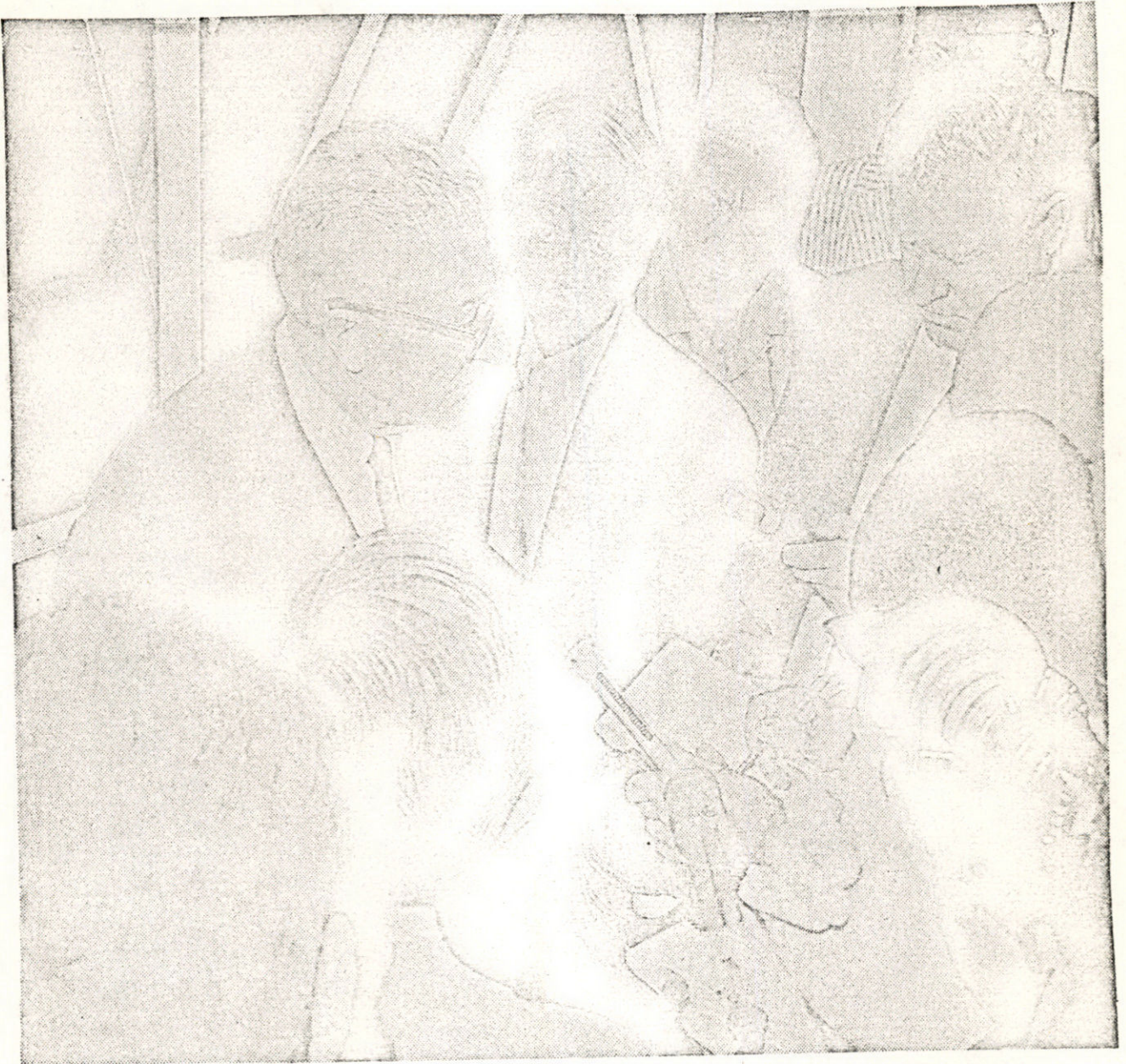
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IN THE CORRIDOR — Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper meets newsmen after first session of Sirhan trial.
Times Photo by Jack Carrick

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Lawyers Seeking To Rescind Not Guilty Plea

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Efforts by defense lawyers to make precedent-setting law in California today delayed selection of a jury in the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, accused as the slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Chief defense council Grant B. Cooper has indicated that testimony he wants to introduce in support of one of his legal maneuvers will be lengthy. At one point in yesterday's proceeding, he suggested a 30-day delay in the trial to iron out legal points.

Cooper's suggestion, which never reached the formal motion stage, was brushed aside by Superior Court Judge Her-

bert V. Walker, presiding over the trial.

Arguments today centered around attempts by Cooper to get Judge Walker to "set aside" Sirhan's plea of "not guilty" to the indictment returned against him by the County Grand Jury June 7, 1968.

That indictment charges him with murder in the slaying of Sen. Kennedy early the morning of June 5, 1968, in a kitchen off the Ambassador Hotel's Embassy Room.

Cooper has made it clear that the reason he wants the plea set aside is to lay the groundwork for an attack against the 1968 Los Angeles County Grand Jury, and California's Grand Jury selection system in general.

The system has been attacked before, and at the level of the State Supreme Court the attacks have been unsuccessful. However, Cooper points out that the attack against the system is being carried to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Cooper has assailed selection of the 1968 Grand Jury on the grounds that the system which permits judges to nominate Grand Jury candidates, who are then chosen by a spin of the wheel, inherently excludes "members of some minority groups and persons of some national background."

The legal concept of "timeliness" could mitigate against Cooper's move to withdraw the

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*acc to Sirhan
1-10-69*

"not guilty" plea, even though withdrawal of the plea is but a technical maneuver. The concept's rationale is that there was a proper time and place for Cooper's argument, and that it may not have been made.

The chief defense counsel's answer to that is: "I wasn't in the case then."

(Cooper joined defense attorney Russell E. Parsons in the Sirhan case last month after conclusion of the Friars Club card cheating trail. (The third defense lawyer, Emile Zola Ber- man of New York, joined his colleagues even later.)

In yesterday's proceedings Cooper lost two of his moves.

He failed:

- To get Judge Walker to agree to two juries in the case—one to hear the evidence, the other to set the penalty, should there be a first degree murder conviction.
- To get the jurist to assent to written, instead of oral, examination of prospective jurors.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lynn Compton, who heads the prosecution, opposed both moves. Walker rejected the two-jury request out of hand, and denied the plea for written examinations on the grounds that the jury prospects might act in collusion in filling out written questionnaires.

At a post session news conference yesterday Cooper confirmed speculation that the Sirhan defense will be based on legal and psychological grounds.

He said:

"The defense will not deny Sirhan shot Kennedy. A lot of people saw him.

"The defense will be along other lines."

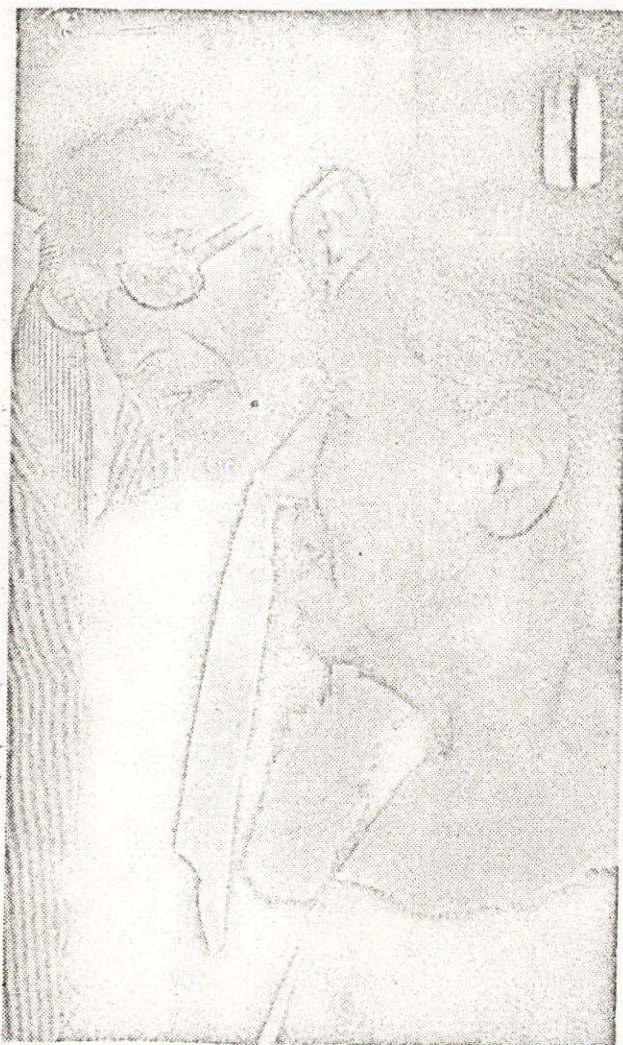
Motions introduced at yesterday's session indicated these other grounds:

- An attack on California's petit (trial) jury system because it automatically excuses members of certain professions from jury service.
- Another attempt to overthrow the system which allows the same jury to decide guilt or innocence in a first degree murder case, and then to deliberate again as to what penalty the defendant shall suffer.

The defense maintains the law which permits automatic excuse of lawyers, physicians, teachers and nurses from jury duty, denies "whole classes of people" to a defendant as jurors in his trial.

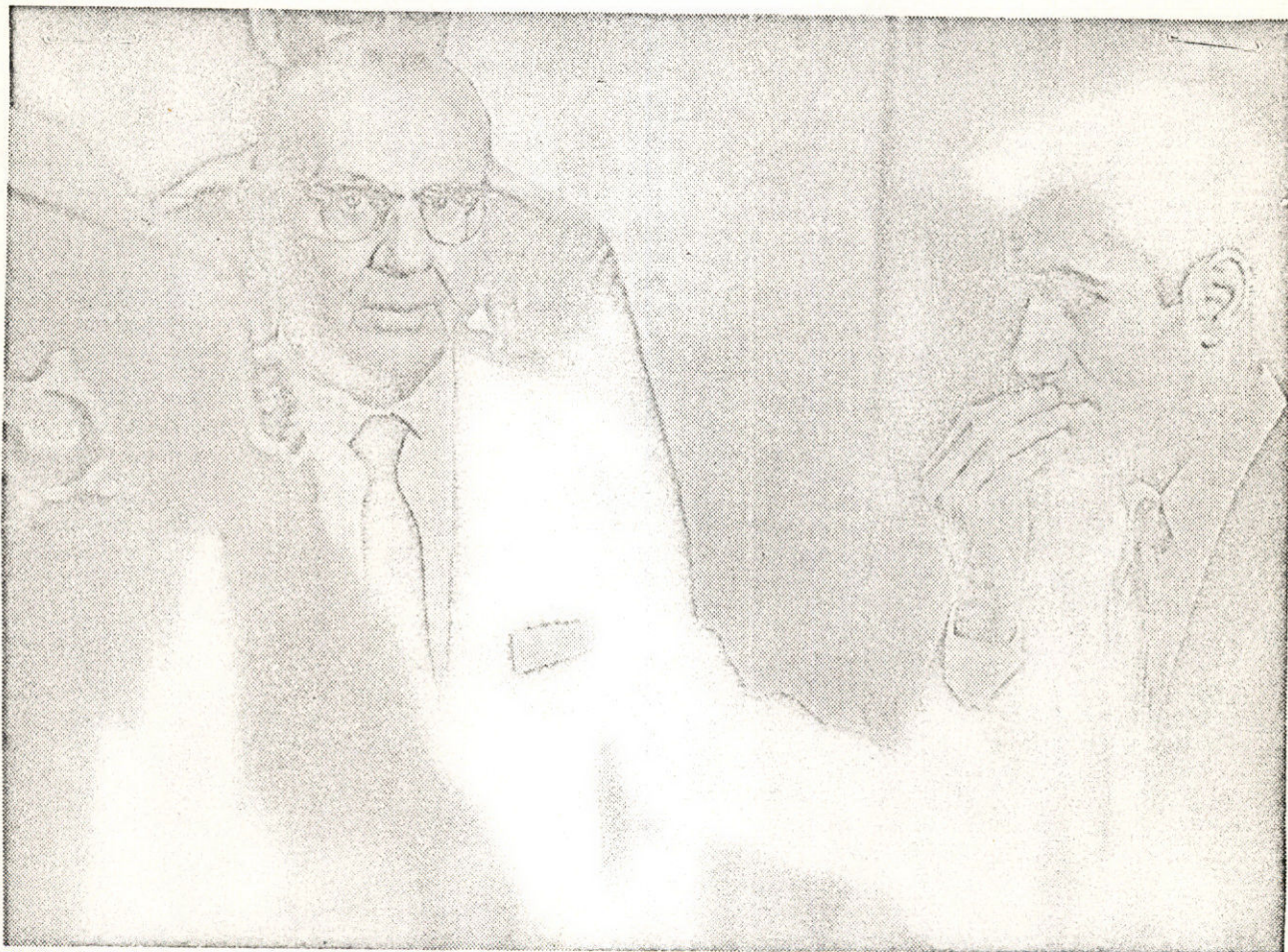
The so-called penalty jury system Cooper maintains is "clearly unconstitutional." Although he denied this plea yesterday, Judge Walker made it clear he did not foreclose the defense from putting it forth a second time.

Finally, it is clear that the defense has not abandoned, but on the contrary continues to work to develop, defenses of "diminished capacity" aimed at showing that Sirhan's reasoning faculties may have been impaired at the time Kennedy was shot.



—Associated Press Wirephoto

SIRHAN'S MOTHER, BROTHER LEAVE COURT
Mary, Munir Sirhan attended opening day of trial



—UPI Telephoto

ATTORNEY RUSSELL PARSONS LEADS APPREHENSIVE SIRHAN
They were on way to courtroom for beginning session of murder trial.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Trial

Glimpses

Guards Find Reporter's Recorder Part

By AL STUMP

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Sharply but censored, the blond girl reporter from a national news service shrieked with dismay, her hands flapping in disavowal of any deliberate wrongdoing, when security guards at the Sirhan B. Sirhan trial pounced upon her . . . after they found part of tape-recorder equipment in her carry-all bag.

"I didn't know it was there!" she cried. "I know recorders are illegal. And I do own one. But I didn't bring it here, honestly."

Sheriff Pete Pitchess' detail at the Hall of Justice runs

young, tough, suspicious of anything that moves. They just stood and pointed at "tape" earphones found in a search of the girl's bag. "Quietly step to one side," they ordered. "We want to talk to you."

★ ★ ★

"Crosspopuli" might be a term coined for the people encountered in the teeming corridors outside the Jury Room and the Auxiliary Courtroom.

Here is a highly-nervous female who works as a clerk of the court in Auckland, New Zealand, standing in line, hoping to gain one of the almost impossible-to-attain half-dozen seats within the chamber of testimony

granted to the general public. Her name: Helen Butts. . . Helen is late-thirtyish. First trip to the U.S. A trip mostly made because "I loved Bobby as did all New Zealanders" and "I had to come here and see how they tried and handled his killer."

Soon after Robert Kennedy was blasted out of life, Helen Butts was attending a lecture at the Auckland Uplift League Hall. "A man ran out on the stage and broke into the lecture and yelled that Bobby had been killed. The audience yelled and booed him. We refused to believe it," says Helen, standing in line, her foot tapping, her face tense.

"Do you Americans know,"

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she asked, "who you destroyed?"

★ ★ ★

As Helen Butts from Auckland spoke, a slim, quiet man, Melvin Latterman, stood listening. He, too, hoped for a seat.

Latterman, about 30, is in the restaurant business in Westwood Village.

"I came to witness this," he said, "because I worked in Bob Kennedy's campaign from the day he filed for President. I was in the Wilshire office, writing letters and working on arrangements for his public appearances.

"Sen. Kennedy dropped by our place several times. He drank coffee with me.

"He told me, 'I like L.A.—it's a place of constant motion and excitement—where something always is happening.'"

Latterman's eyes brimmed:

"I don't hate Sirhan . . . he's a human being, after all, and the law will deal with him."

★ ★ ★

Eastern reporters—and dozens have converged upon this epic trial from the Chicago Tribune, Cleveland Press, Toronto Telegram, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Newsday, New York Post, Times and News, the Boston Globe, not to mention Blick of Zurich, Paris Match, Le Figaro of Paris, Epoca of Italy, Deutsche Press-Agentur, London Daily Express and London Daily Sun—generally agree upon one "clue" to Sirhan's personality.

Veterans of many a high-stake criminal trial, they tell you:

"He's smug. That's the single biggest impression we get of him. He's expecting to beat this rap."

Will he? The "expert" press voting is that he will never see the inside of the San Quentin cyanide chamber.

A guy who said he exercised horses with the defendant at the Granja Vista del Rio ranch near Corona in the summer of 1966, when Sirhan had aspirations to be a jockey, sipped coffee in the Hall lobby and made his point.

"He ain't worried? When he was working around the stables and walking 'hots' after workouts, he weighed about 118 pounds.

"I got a good look at him today. He's lost so much weight I doubt he tops 105. His cheekbones have sunk in so far I wasn't sure it was him, when I first saw him.

"Don't they feed him enough up there on the 13th floor jail?"

★ ★ ★

They feed Sirhan like every other prisoner in County Jail.

Yesterday, he lunched on smoked salami, vegetable soup, fresh fruit (an orange), vegetable salad, bread and coffee.

Dinner involved a hot dog; liberally sauced, a partially-battered potato, vegetable salad again, mixed fruit, hot tea and bread.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

30-Day Trial Delay Sought

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Defense lawyers, who have failed in three previous attempts to win delay in the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, will try their luck again today — this time raising the question of one of their number's involvement in a federal grand jury matter.

In closed-door proceedings in the chambers of Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, the defense will argue that the trial of the man accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy should be put off at least 30 days because of publicity surrounding the federal grand jury's investigation into attorney Grant B. Cooper's premature possession of a grand jury transcript in the Friars Club card-cheating trial.

Cooper has appeared twice before the grand jury, and must make at least one more, as yet unscheduled, appearance to explain how he came to possess the transcript before the scheduled time.

Emile Zola Berman, who with Cooper and Russell E. Parsons represents Sirhan, said after yesterday's court session he would put before Judge Walker a record of the number of newspaper and television accounts of the Cooper investigation.

Before Judge Walker shut him off at the trial yesterday, Ber-

man, speaking for the first time since the case opened, said:

"We expect to have information on the saturation of certain information throughout the community.

"... Saturation with respect to publicity in the case."

Asked what effect he thought the publicity had, Berman later said:

"That's what we're going to find out tomorrow."

Yesterday's court session saw Judge Walker reject another defense delay plea—this one sought by Cooper to gain more time to prepare arguments attacking the indictment against Sirhan. The grounds are that the 1968 Los Angeles County Grand Jury, which June 7 indicted Sirhan for Kennedy's June 5 murder, was not constitutionally selected.

Cooper assails the system of nomination of grand jurors by Superior Court judges because, he maintains, it excludes members of certain minority groups.

Judge Walker turned Cooper down, and read into the record the list of continuances Sirhan has had since he entered his formal plea of "not guilty" to the murder indictment July 28.

"The court feels there have been many continuances and there has been competent counsel from July 28 to this date," Walker concluded.

The judge did agree, however, to allow Cooper to put off his arguments against the grand jury system until later in the trial. After yesterday's session chief prosecutor Lynn Compton forecast this argument would not come until after selection of the trial jury.

Both sides want time to study a similar attack against the grand jury system made by defense counsel in the Sal Castro-Brown Beret case here earlier this year. The record of this became available only yesterday.

Both defense and prosecution have agreed that jury selection

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can begin Monday, but there is some indication Judge Walker Los Angeles County Superior may push to begin that process Court Jury Commissioner Wil-Friday.

Cooper mounted an attack yesterday on the system of choosing trial jurors. He said it because certain members of certain professions may be automatically excused from jury duty. These professions range from attorneys and physicians through prison guards to telephone operators and civil servants.

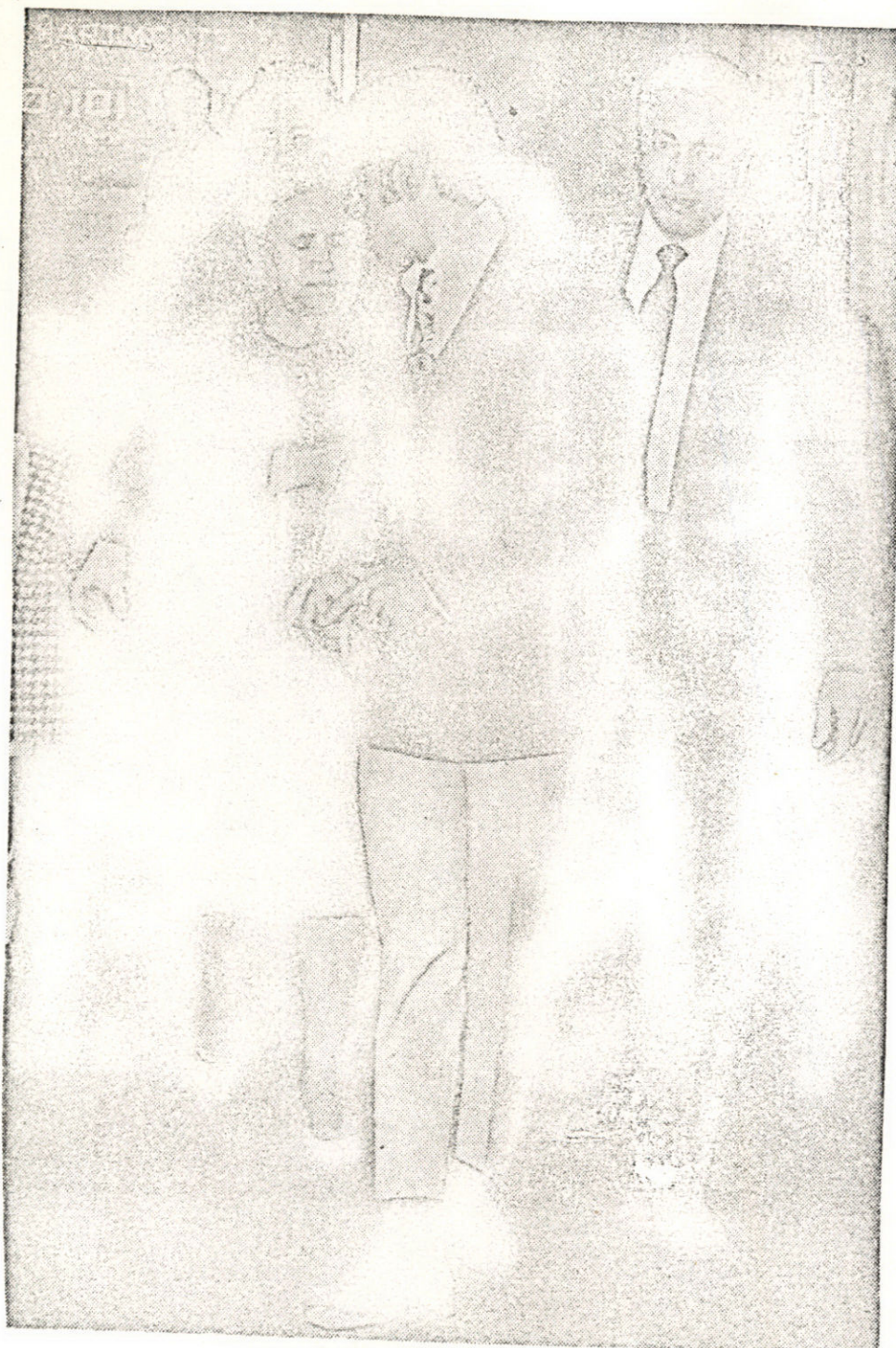
Called as a defense witness, Cooper renewed his motion for two juries in the case—one to try it and the other to set the penalty. Judge Walker again turned him down. Sirhan, who had appeared drawn and despondent at the opening of his trial Tuesday, displayed a much more cheerful demeanor yesterday.

Both sides want time to study and, with a broad smile, waved a similar attack against the grand jury system made by defense counsel in the Sal Cas-30, and Munir (Joe), 21, who tro-Brown Beret case here earlier this year. The record of this, the death penalty by Judge Walker Tuesday caused the young Jordanian immigrant to jerk ramrod straight in his seat. Yesterday, during a discussion of the penalty lasting several minutes, he moved not a muscle, but sat with his chin propped in his right hand gazing off into space.

Cooper mounted an attack yesterday on the system of choosing trial jurors. He said it because certain members of certain professions may be automatically excused from jury duty. These professions range from attorneys and physicians through prison guards to telephone operators and civil servants.

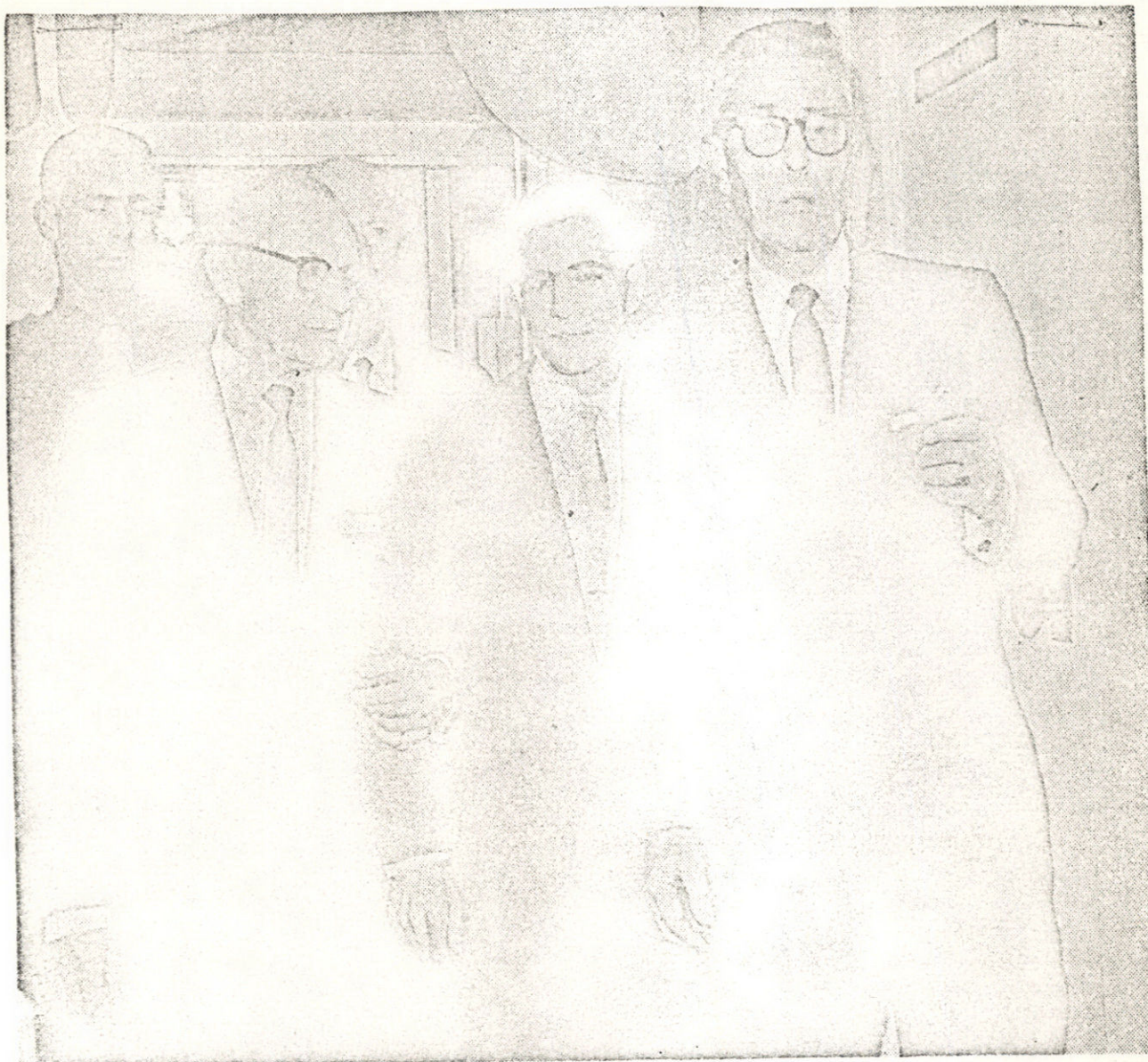
Mrs. Sirhan's eyes brooded as she watched the second day of the trial which may cost her son his life. She stared straight ahead, her attention seemingly riveted on her son's back and those of his attorneys. When Sirhan waved at her, she did not wave back. Much of the time she sat with her hands clutching the armrests of her chair.

Her greying hair was drawn tightly back from her forehead. She was dressed in a coat dress of black and paisley gold.



—Herald-Examiner Photo

SIRHAN'S FAMILY ARRIVES FOR SECOND DAY OF TRIAL
From left, defendant's mother Mary, brothers Adel and Muhiir



—Herald-Examiner photo

SIRHAN, ON WAY TO COURT, IS FLANKED BY HIS THREE ATTORNEYS

From left: A deputy sheriff, Russell Parsons, Emile Zola Berman, Sirhan, Grant B. Cooper

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Attorney Advises Cooper Not to Quit Sirhan Defense Team

Lawyer Who Faces Contempt of Court Threat in Friars Case Had Sought Advice on Fears of Adverse Publicity

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

Attorney Grant B. Cooper, faced with the threat of contempt proceedings in federal court, sought advice from another lawyer on whether he should withdraw from the defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, it was learned Thursday from a source close to Cooper.

That lawyer, The Times also learned, considered for 24 hours before advising Cooper to remain on the three-man defense team for the 24-year-old Jordanian.

The identity of the other attorney was not definitely known, but A. L. Wirin, American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, originally proposed that Cooper join the Sirhan defense.

The trial, in its third day Thursday, was marked by two closed sessions in the chambers of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker on defense motions designed to delay the start of jury selection.

Trial to Resume Monday

The motions continued to meet with disapproval from Judge Walker, who declared that after a one-day recess today, the trial will resume Monday morning. Hopefully, the arduous task of jury selection will begin then.

Publicity linking the Sirhan case to the grand jury investigation of Cooper was the focus of the closed sessions Thursday. The Times learned, and the defense again sought a 30-day continuance, unsuccessfully.

Cooper reportedly is concerned that publicity surrounding the grand jury probe of his admitted unauthorized possession of secret transcript in the Friars Club card-cheating case could prejudice prospective jurors who will sit on the Sirhan case.

Cooper has introduced several motions designed to delay the start

of the trial, presumably until his own legal situation is resolved.

But Judge Walker has frequently expressed privately and in open court his determination to get the long-delayed, oft-postponed Sirhan trial moving. Sirhan was arraigned seven months ago.

Thursday the defense subpoenaed 17 witnesses to the closed session in support of its contention that "saturation of publicity"—and publicity

involving Cooper more than Sirhan—was prejudicial to Sirhan's right to a fair trial.

Los Angeles television and radio newsman John Goodman said before testifying that the defense indicated to him it was concerned not with stories that dealt with the Sirhan and Cooper cases separately, but with stories in which both cases were linked.

Another witness was a secretary for Arbitron, a television rating firm which gauges how widely any given television program is viewed in a certain area.

It was expected that such evidence, aside from supporting the unsuccessful defense motion for continuance, could also be used later as grounds for motions for change of venue or for a continuing motion for mistrial.

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Sheppard Trial

Cooper also referred in court Thursday to the murder trial of Dr. Sam Sheppard in Cleveland, in which pretrial publicity was ruled grounds for both a continuance and, later a change in venue.

Thursday's session was also marked by little activity in open court. A closed session began in Judge Walker's chambers shortly after 9 a.m., delaying public proceedings until shortly after 10.

After 15 minutes of hearing motions in open court, Judge Walker, the attorneys for the defense and prosecution, and the pale, subdued defendant withdrew to chambers for the remainder of the day.

The public proceedings concerned Cooper's earlier motion to quash the first-degree murder indictment by attacking the constitutionality of the grand jury which indicted Sirhan for the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Castro Case

In support of that motion, Cooper introduced the four volume, 1,010-page transcript of the case against East Los Angeles teacher Sal Castro in which several judges were called to explain and defend their methods of nominating members to the grand jury.

The defense team also planned to study the transcript in hope of finding relevant points in support of another motion by Cooper to set aside the trial jury list.

Cooper contends that the method of selecting jurors from voters' lists automatically excludes so many classes of citizens that such juries do not represent "a proper cross section of the population."

Sirhan sat quietly throughout the brief proceedings in open court. His mother, Mary, was absent for the first time Thursday, as were two brothers, Munir and Adel, who attended earlier sessions.

Thursday, as on the previous two days of trial, the name of the slain New York senator was never mentioned in court.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Attorneys for Sirhan in New Plea for Delay

Pretrial Publicity Cited as
Newsmen Are Questioned;
Case to Resume Monday

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

The stop-and-go trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan continued Thursday with defense attorneys pleading in closed session for further delay.

After 15 minutes of proceedings in open court, Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker recessed the public trial until 9:30 a.m. Monday, but both the defense and prosecution continued meeting Thursday afternoon in Judge Walker's chambers.

Although the press was barred from the closed session in Judge Walker's chambers—the fifth such meeting in only three court sessions—it was clear that pretrial publicity was the basis of continued defense maneuvers for time.

The three-man defense team for the accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy subpoenaed 17 witnesses for the closed session—most of them Los Angeles radio and television newsmen.

One was John Goodman, of radio station KNX, who said before testifying that the defense had indicated it was concerned about news reports discussing both the Sirhan case and a federal grand jury investigation involving Sirhan's chief defense attorney, Grant B. Cooper.

Refuses to Produce Records

Goodman said the defense asked him to bring the station's records for last Monday and Tuesday, but that he refused on advice from an attorney for the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Defense Atty. Emile Zola Berman said in court Wednesday that the defense would introduce a motion in Thursday's closed session pertaining to "the saturation of publicity in this area."

It was believed that the defense would cite the character and extent of news coverage as grounds for a motion for mistrial or for a change of venue—or perhaps merely a 30-day continuance, which Judge Walker had earlier denied.

It was Cooper who indicated one possible grounds for a motion for a continuance or a change of venue. In the trial's opening day Tuesday Cooper referred in court to the trial of Dr. Sam Sheppard in Cleveland in which pretrial publicity was ruled grounds for both a continuance and a later change in venue.

Publicity on Cooper

In Sirhan's case, however, it did not appear Thursday that publicity on Sirhan was as much an issue as publicity on Cooper.

With Goodman, as with other newsmen, it apparently was the linking of Sirhan's defense with Cooper's actions in the Friar's Club card-cheating trial that was the focus of discussion.

Cooper, 65, has admitted unauthorized possession and use of a secret transcript during that trial, and has refused, at the risk of contempt proceedings, to answer grand jury questions on how he got the transcript.

Cooper reportedly is concerned that publicity about his own case could have a prejudicial effect on Sirhan's right to a fair trial.

Judge Walker reportedly is concerned about the same thing, but is at least as concerned about the seven-month delay between the 24-year-old Jordanian's arraignment and opening of trial.

An indication that saturation of publicity is the grounds for a defense motion for a fourth continuance was the fact that one witness called Thursday was Diana Smith, a secretary for the West Coast office of Arbitron, a television rating firm which determines the extent of viewership of certain programs.

Miss Smith and all other witnesses were warned not to disclose their testimony in Judge Walker's chambers.

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It was believed that the defense had already introduced into evidence stories from local newspapers regarding both Sirhan and Cooper.

The only activity in open court Thursday concerned Cooper's earlier motion to quash the first-degree murder indictment by attacking the constitutionality of the grand jury which indicted Sirhan.

Other Trial

In support of that motion, Cooper introduced the four-volume, 1,010-page transcript of the case against East Los Angeles teacher Sal Castro—a case now on trial—in which several judges were called to explain and defend their methods of nominating members to the grand jury.

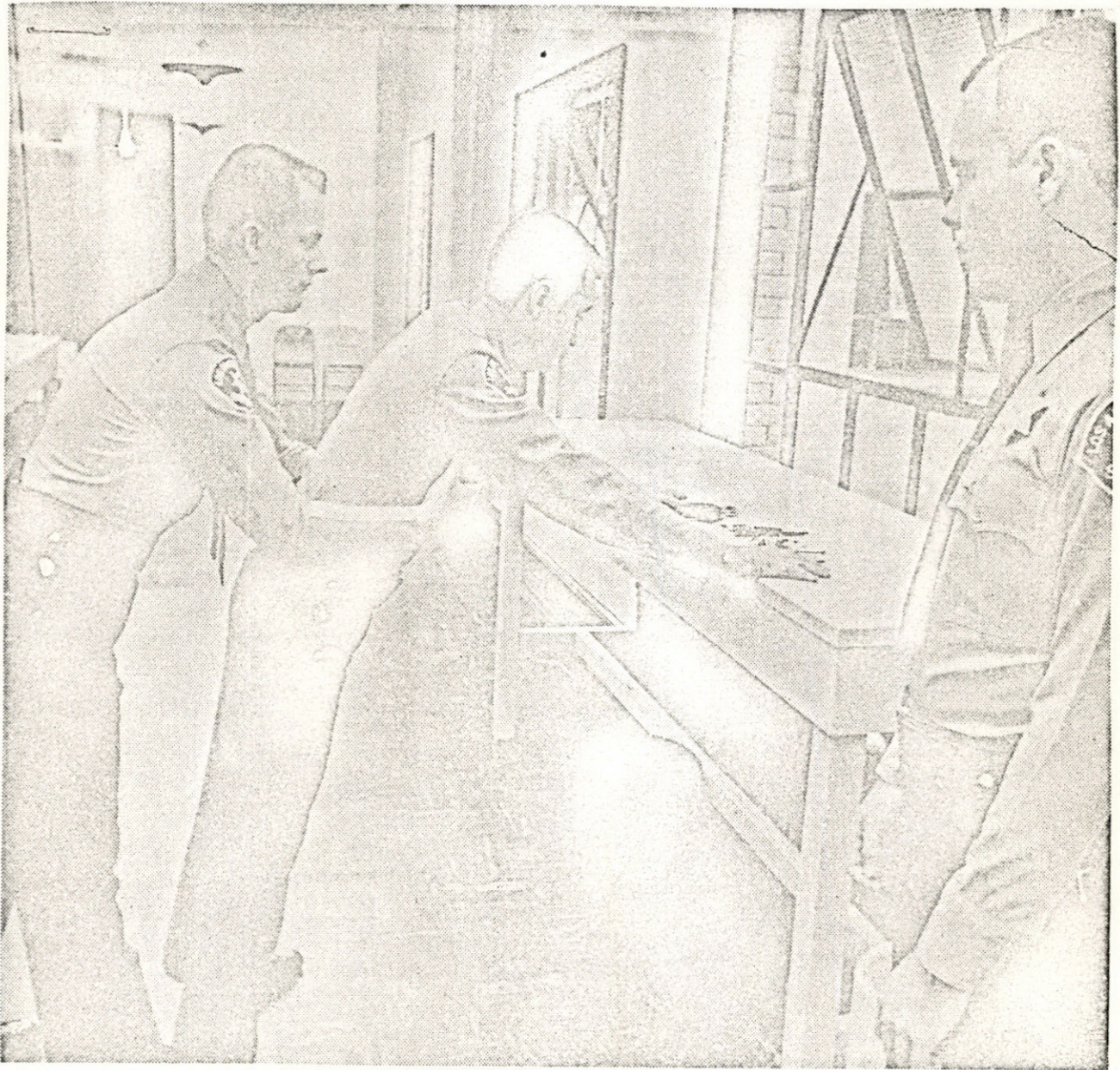
Judge Walker then granted the recess until

Monday morning, during which defense and prosecution were to study the massive transcript for points Cooper contends are relevant to the Sirhan case.

On Wednesday it appeared that jury selection might begin sometime Monday, but it is expected that arguments on the Castro transcript now forecloses that possibility. Jury selection is expected to take as long as three or four weeks.

Sirhan sat quietly throughout the brief proceedings in open court. His mother, Mary, was absent for the first time Thursday, as were two brothers, Munir and Adel, who attended earlier sessions.

Thursday, as on the previous two days of trial, the name of the slain New York senator was never mentioned in court.



DOUBLY CAUTIOUS—Deputy sheriffs on duty at Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's trial search each other be-

fore entering auxiliary courtroom. From left are Robert McWilliams, Robert Ford, Gordon Keenoy.
Times photo by John Malmn

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan's Thoughts Told by Writer on His Defense Staff

BY WILLIAM J. DRUMMOND

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's thoughts on America, on himself and on his lawyers were revealed here Sunday by a journalist on the staff of the Jordanian's defense counsel.

Robert Blair Kaiser, formerly a Time magazine correspondent, has written an article for Life magazine based on long interviews with the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan, Kaiser said, smokes 10 cigars a day and then switches to six packs of cigarettes a day, has a normal 24-year-old's interest in women and can talk at length about subjects ranging from literature to theology.

Kaiser said Sirhan told him, "It's all violence, chaos, unrest. Whatever happened to the old saying, 'peace and quiet?'"

Kaiser was appointed to the staff of Russell B. Parsons, one of the defense lawyers, and was granted permission to interview Sirhan exclusively. Kaiser said the privilege was given him because he was a friend of attorney Grant Cooper and used his influence to persuade Cooper to join in Sirhan's defense.

Talks With Sirhan Many Times

Kaiser said in an interview he had talked with Sirhan at least a dozen times since Aug. 14.

"We talked about different subjects—his background, family, acculturation in America, his friends, his foes," Kaiser said. "He is intellectually inclined, expansive, articulate, well-read but untrained."

Kaiser said Sirhan knows that Cooper has been defense attorney in many famous trials and can command a large fee. "And he's defending a punk like me," Sirhan was quoted as saying.

Kaiser said his article would not include matters having a bearing on the issues in the trial for the murder of Sen. Kennedy. "I won't try the case in the public prints," he said.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, head of the prosecution team in the case, said Kaiser, as an agent of the defense counsel, was included in the coverage of a court order banning comment by parties in the case on the issues in the trial.

However, Compton said the significance of the Kaiser material could not be known until the article is actually seen. It is to be published Jan. 17.

Kaiser said he had also talked with Sirhan's mother, Mary, about a dozen times. She keeps a buffet table covered with magazines that tell the story of the Kennedy assassination, Kaiser said.

The article says, "She picks up the magazines now and then and talks to the face of Robert Kennedy as drawn by Time artist Louis Glanzman, telling him how sorry she is.

"Kennedy, moreover, talks to her. 'It's okay, Mary,' she says he says. 'I forgive you. It's okay.'"

Kaiser said of Mary Sirhan:

"Obviously, this is a very traumatic experience for a woman who has gone through a lot of traumatic episodes.

"She is a woman who prays. I believe that in the Arab Orthodox religion ikons are used and prayed to. It's not unusual to talk to a picture, or for that matter for a person in a picture to talk to her."

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Sirhan recounted the scene in the Ambassador Hotel after the shooting, Kaiser said.

"I felt a choking in my throat, and people were holding me, and beating me, twisting my left knee, and pounding my head on the table. They hurt my left eye . . ." Sirhan said.

The author said Sirhan feels that even his name sets him apart and prevents him from feeling fully an American. The Jordanian is quoted as saying:

"My name! My name! Sear-hann Sear-hann. As soon as anyone heard it, everything else stopped. They wanted to know, 'What kind of a name is that?' I began to associate more and more with my name. Sirhan meant 'wolf' and I became more and more of a lone wolf."

A. L. Wirin of the American Civil Liberties Union had first asked Kaiser to talk to Cooper about joining the defense, the writer said. And in return Kaiser would get the interview rights.

"If I'd help him (Wirin) do his thing, he'd help me do my thing," Kaiser told The Times.

Kaiser declined to say how much he would be paid for the article, but said he was working on Sirhan's defense for nothing. Asked if any of the attorneys would share in his writing fee, he said, "That's private. It goes to me. What I do is my own business."

Kaiser noted that Sirhan's interest in females was "normal," and that he had taken a fancy to a striking blonde reporter present at his trial.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SIRHAN INTRIGUES

THE CURIOUS

By MYRNA OLIVER

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan emerged yesterday as a pathetic, intriguing curiosity in the imaginations of strangers who stood outside his courtroom, waiting.

"I came to be in the hallway and watch them take pictures and everything, but I wouldn't want to go in the courtroom. He's too disgusting," said Mrs. Clara Flekstein, who often stood in line outside another courtroom to observe the trial of Dr. Bernard Finch. Grey hair caught under a beret, she shook her head emphatically—intrigued by Sirhan without wanting to see him.

Quieter and more businesslike about watching the historic trial on its third day than at its opening Tuesday, a few spectators prowled the hallway during the brief court session and judge's chamber proceedings yesterday. None got into the courtroom.

"The eight-minute court ses-

sion was too short to allow deputies to check any members of the public into the chamber.

"I've been here since 6:30 a.m., and I'm very disappointed I didn't get to see Sirhan Sirhan," complained Herbert Becker.

Becker shouted repeatedly and heatedly, "Sirhan—is he still alive?" as David Fitts, top assistant to chief deputy district attorney Lynn Compton, emerged from the courtroom. He was assured that the defendant was still very much alive. "They should hold this trial in the Sports Arena and sell tickets which would bear the cost of the trial," said Becker.

Reflecting on the death of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy which brought Department 107 of the Hall of Justice into prominence, Becker added sadly, "What is it about this Kennedy family that stop on their California vacation follows it everywhere it goes?"

Mr. and Mrs. John Connolly, St. Paul, Minn., made the Hall of Justice hallway a "must" get in."



—Herald-Examiner Photo

HERBERT BECKER

"Is Sirhan still alive?"

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"I think this poor fellow Sirhan is a very sad creature," said Mrs. Connolly. "It's hard to imagine anyone who would be driven to something like this."

Missing Sirhan, the couple still rated the visit to the court building worthwhile.

"It's certainly different from courtrooms in little St. Paul," said Mrs. Connolly, observing the tight security practices.

Hall of Justice secretaries and clerks lined the hallway during their coffee breaks—mostly, they said, just out of curiosity.

"Sirhan looks pitiful to me. I feel sorry for him," said Mrs. Dora Pace who waited outside the courtroom with her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Dorothy Pace, and two noisy grandchildren, Robert, 2, and Luwanda, four months. The Paces longed for a glimpse of the Jordanian defendant. They didn't get it.

"I'm the mother of six boys and I'd hate for that to happen to one of my sons," said Mrs. Pace. "They can do anything but take a life."

"I saw Mrs. Sirhan on television," she added thoughtfully. "She looks pleasant and peaceful, and like she is a mother who tried to do a good job."

Mrs. Mary Sirhan did not appear at the Hall of Justice yesterday. It was the first time since Sirhan's arraignment in Municipal Court before Judge Joan Dempsey Klein that the young defendant had no family support in the courtroom.

Complaints that they could not see Sirhan were echoed by people who thought they had a right to members of the press in the auxiliary courtroom.

Technicians sought to remedy that problem yesterday afternoon by installing a new closed circuit television camera aimed directly at Sirhan's seat in the courtroom. The defendant will now appear on camera throughout the proceedings.

Complaints from the public, however, are not so easily answered. The interested and the curious gather daily, always hoping for a look at Sirhan.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Jury Selection To Begin Monday

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Jury selection in the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused as the murderer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, can begin Monday, according to the chief of his defense team—Grant B. Cooper.

Cooper made his announcement to newsmen as he emerged from a day-long, closed-door hearing in the chambers of Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presides over the Sirhan trial.

During that hearing, seven radio newsmen and two others were quizzed about publicity given Cooper in his troubles with the Federal Court and grand jury.

The nature of the hearing was ordered kept secret by Judge Walker. Defense and prosecution lawyers refused to disclose what was argued, whether Judge Walker made a decision, and—if he did—what that decision might be.

In the words of Emile Zola Berman, an associate defense counsel:

"I am absolutely forbidden to discuss the matter in any way, shape or form."

However, Wednesday Berman

indicated he wanted a 30-day postponement of the Sirhan trial because of Cooper's grand jury problems. It is believed that is what was argued yesterday.

Since the trial will proceed Monday, it is presumed that Berman was unsuccessful.

Judge Walker also ordered the newsmen witnesses not to discuss their testimony—even in their own broadcasts.

First witness called to Judge Walker's chambers yesterday was Dean F. West. He declined to give his occupation or say why he had been subpoenaed. However, it was learned West operates a commercial radio monitoring service from his Hollywood home.

He was followed by Herb Humphries, managing editor of KFWB. Humphries said he and the station's news editor, Ken Weinberg, both were subpoenaed at their desks early in the morning. He said they were not told why they had been called, nor to bring any material with them. Weinberg was excused without testifying.

Most of the other newsmen, however, said they had been

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asked to bring with them materials broadcast about Cooper, sat disconsolately in the jury box of the armor-plated eighth floor courtroom which adjoins Judge Walker's chambers. She frowned and bit her thumb, smiling only when Defense Investigator Michael McGowan told her she was free to go.

Cooper has appeared twice before the grand jury, and must make at least one more, as yet unscheduled, appearance to explain how he came into possession of a secret Federal Grand Jury transcript relating to the Friars Club card-cheating case. McGowan excused her when it was determined that she not only knew nothing of interest to the defense, but also that she could not read the computer print-out in which her employers make their reports.

Hugh Brundage, KMPC newsman, brought tapes of a broadcast relating to Cooper to the hearing. The final witness of the day was Robert Light, president of the Southern California Broadcasters Association.

Subpoenas duces tecum (orders to produce records) were not served on any of the witnesses, and Jon Goodman, 34, KNX newsman, said his station had refused to produce its broadcast logs as requested by the defense lawyers. Goodman was accompanied by William Hill, associate counsel of Columbia Broadcasting Company's System Division, which owns the station.

Hill denounced subpoenaing of the newsmen as a "fishing expedition," and said CBS would refuse to produce any records unless specifically ordered by the court. Open court proceedings in yesterday's session lasted only eight minutes.

Other newsmen called yesterday were: Dean Sander, KLAC assistant news director; Bill Brown, KHJ; Lou Leslie, KABC assistant assignment editor, and Leo McElroy, KFI public affairs director. That time was spent in making arrangements for copies of an 1010-page transcript of proceedings in the Sal Castro-Brown Beret case.

Attorneys in that case have attacked the grand jury selection system in the county on the same grounds as Cooper, who will assail it later in the Sirhan trial in an attempt to have the young Jordanian emigrant's indictment quashed.

The grounds are that the system of nomination of prospective grand jurors by Superior Court judges serves to exclude the members of certain minority groups.

Cooper, Berman and the third defense lawyer, Russell E. Parsons, will spend the weekend studying the transcript also for possible use in their attack on the petit (trial) jury system.

This attack, on the grounds that the jury system is inherently unfair to Sirhan because certain members of professions may be excused by law from jury service, will be mounted Monday before jury selection to "get down to the Hall of Justice."

One witness apparently was subpoenaed by mistake. She was Diana Smith, secretary to Clay Brown, Los Angeles manager for American Research Bureau — a radio rating service. Miss Smith said she was the only one in her office when the defense process server arrived early yesterday morning. She said he asked her name, filled it in on the subpoena, and told her to "get down to the Hall of Justice."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ask Death For Sirhan

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

San Quentin's gas chamber cast its grim shadow over the courtroom today as jury selection in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial moved into its second day.

Any lingering doubt the prosecution will seek the supreme penalty in the case of the man accused of the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy vanished yesterday. Deputy District Attorney David N. Fitts bluntly told a prospective juror the state would not only ask the penalty, but "urge it."

Mrs. Rosa Molina, nurse and widow, was tentatively seated as a juror when, after some hesitation, she mumbled "yes sir," to Fitts' thundered question:

"If you arrived at a decision that this was proper in the case of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, would you have the courage to say, 'for the murder of Sen. Kennedy you die in the gas chamber?'"

Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presides over the trial of the man accused of fatally shooting Kennedy early the morning of June 5, 1968, in an Ambassador Hotel kitchen, braces each prospective juror with two questions regarding the death penalty.

He asks:

"Do you hold an opinion or conviction such that you would be unable to find guilty verdict if the penalty was death?"

"Is your opinion of the death penalty such that you would automatically refuse to impose it without regard to evidence in the case?"

So far, no prospective juror questioned by Judge Walker has made an affirmative answer to either question.

It is not just the prosecutor and judge who are concerned with the jury prospects' death penalty attitude.

Chief defense counsel Grant F. Cooper did not accede to

stating Mrs. Molina until she answered "no" to his question;

"In the recesses of your heart and mind, knowing what you know now, do you have a leaning toward life (imprisonment) or death as a proper punishment?"

When court resumes this morning, the questioning of Miss Caroline L. Freeman, a clerk for Pacific Telephone Company's "Yellow Pages," will continue.

Judge Walker adjourned the trial yesterday following a secret, in-chambers session in which he, and defense and prosecution lawyers queried her about what publicity she has

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Judge Walker adjourned the trial yesterday following a se-crecy, in-chambers session in which he, and defense and prosecution lawyers queried her about what publicity she has seen and heard of the Sirhan case, and what, if any, effect that publicity might have on her fitness to serve on the jury.

Miss Freeman apparently passed that test. So far, only the questioning of Mrs. Molina and Miss Freeman progressed to that point. Questioning of the first jury prospect yesterday brought open-court confirmation of a defense tactic Cooper had already disclosed to newsmen.

He announced to prospective jurors:

"There will be no denial of the fact that our client, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, fired the shot or shots that killed the late Sen. Kennedy and injured others."

The jury will be asked to consider Sirhan's intention, Cooper said.

George Doude, Aerospace Corp. property management executive, was excused by Judge Walker after he told Cooper he did not believe he could find Sirhan not guilty of first-degree murder in circumstances where Sirhan admitted he fired the shots but maintained innocence by reason of intent.

Double, bifocaled and dark-suited, replied with a firm "no sir," in response to Cooper's probing.

Sirhan displayed no emotion

when the chief of his defense team said he would admit killing Kennedy.

At other times, however, he showed great animation.

Several times he huddled close to Russell E. Parsons, defense attorney who has represented him the longest, whispering in Parsons' ear and apparently receiving reassurance in return.

Twice he acknowledged the presence of his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, and brothers Adel and Munir (Joe) at the rear of the courtroom.

When the first panel of 25 prospective jurors was brought into court, Sirhan studied the face of each intently.

Yet when the jury prospects returned from lunch, the young Jordanian immigrant did not glance up from the letter he was reading.

Sirhan received two typewritten letters yesterday. Parsons read each first and then gave them to his client.

Mail for Sirhan flows into the Hall of Justice every day, both from the post office and by hand delivery. One day last week a teenaged Negro girl delivered two letters to the deputies guarding the man accused of slaying Kennedy. His name was misspelled on each envelope.

The hardship of jury service in a trial that may last three months or longer led to the dismissal of three prospective jurors yesterday.

Machinist Guillermo Salvador was released when he expressed concern over his loss of wages should he serve. Mrs. Lois Knowlton was dismissed because of her husband's illness. Mrs. Nadine Echols, a typist, was excused when she said that concern for her three small children might impair her fitness to serve throughout the long trial.

Most of the day was taken up questioning Mrs. Molina.

In that questioning, the defense appeared to draw the veil from more of its strategy.

Cooper questioned Nurse Molina carefully about her attitude toward psychiatry and psychology.

A titter ran through the courtroom when he asked her a firm "no" to his only half-facetious

query, "Do you think all psychiatrists and psychologists have to be crazy themselves?"

Mrs. Molina was also asked if she was "prejudiced against the use of hypnosis, lie detectors (polygraphs), and sodium-pentothal (truth serum)."

She answered, "No, sir."

Defense psychiatrists have been studying Sirhan since his arraignment. Their finds are available only to Cooper and his associates, Parsons, and Emile Zola Berman. They have so far refused to discuss them.

Cooper, as expected, also queried Mrs. Molina about her reaction to the concept of diminished capacity," or, as he described it, "diminished responsibility." This is a valid criminal defense in California.

Under the defense of diminished capacity, a defendant cannot be found guilty of first-degree murder if it is determined that, although sane, his capacity to understand the full nature of his action is impaired.

In "diminished capacity" it is held that there may not be "intent" to commit a crime if there is such an impairment. This impairment can be the result of fear, obsession, anger, terror, drugs or even alcohol.

It is expected that Cooper will bear heavily on a defense of diminished capacity as the trial wears on.

Sirhan's family seemed far less reserved than it was when the trial opened. The Sirhans yesterday received advance copies of two national magazines that carry stories of their son and brother this week. They huddled over the weeklies, whispering back and forth, and finally, discussing them briefly with newsmen.

Mrs. Sirhan disclosed she has not visited her son in his isolated jail cell on the Hall of Justice's 13th floor since the trial began. Her son, Adel, cut her off abruptly when she was asked why.

A recent newspaper profile of his brother said the family name means "wanderer" in Arabic. One of the magazine articles gives "wolf" as the English translation.

What does Sirhan mean? "Wandering wolf," was Adel Sirhan's smiling rejoinder.

His mother murmured, "Oh, no," and turned away.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

3 More Women Tentatively OK'd for Sirhan Jury

Selection of Trio Helps Accelerate Process That May Require Three Weeks

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

Three more women jurors were provisionally accepted Tuesday as jury selection accelerated in the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused slayer of Robert F. Kennedy.

One woman was provisionally seated Monday.

Activity in the small courtroom of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker centered on exhaustive and repetitious probing by prosecution and defense attorneys of prospective jurors.

Three of the most important areas of questioning involve the effect of the pretrial publicity on the jurors' opinions on the case, the jurors' views on the death penalty and their attitudes on psychiatry.

Carolyn L. Freeman was tentatively seated on the jury, but not until Grant B. Cooper, chief defense attorney, challenged her on the death penalty.

States Her Views

That was when Miss Freeman, a clerk for Pacific Telephone Co., said that in a case where she was completely convinced that willful, deliberate, premeditated murder had been proved "I think I would lean toward the death penalty."

Under questioning by Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, Miss Freeman modified her answer, saying that her verdict "would depend on the mental attitude" of the defendant and whether he had been aggravated or provoked into murder.

"Now after all that fol-de-rol," said Cooper, "let me ask you again. If you were totally sure that first-degree had been proved, would you lean toward the death penalty or toward life?"

"I don't lean either way," she answered.

Judge Walker denied Cooper's challenge.

Questioned on Prejudice

Cooper also asked Miss Freeman if she felt any prejudice or disregard for the science of psychiatry and its various diagnostic tools, such as hypnosis, lie-detector tests, sodium pentathol and ink-blot tests.

"No," she replied each time.

She said she could fairly weigh testimony the defense will introduce to show that Sirhan's state of mind before the killing was such as to diminish his responsibility for the killing.

Cooper has said repeatedly that the defense will not deny that Sirhan killed Sen. Kennedy, but that it will show that obsessive thinking and an emotional frame of mind affected his capacity to formulate the specific intent to commit first-degree murder.

For premeditated murder to be proven, the jury must be convinced that both the act of murder and the intent to murder were clearly demonstrated by evidence.

Since the defense has granted the former as an acknowledged fact, it is banking its defense of Sirhan on the hope that the jury will accept their evidence of Sirhan's limited capacity to plan first-degree murder and then find him guilty on a lesser charge.

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Charge Could Be Reduced

The first-degree murder charge could be reduced to second-degree murder, which carries a sentence of five years to life. First-degree murder convictions carry a penalty of life imprisonment or death in the gas chamber.

Following acceptance of Miss Freeman, defense and prosecution attorneys were fairly quick in approving Mrs. Alicia Duke, an accountant for the State Lands Division, and Mrs. Barbara L. Collins, a service representative for Pacific Telephone.

Cooper and Fitts both seemed impressed with Mrs. Duke, who answered questions quickly, in a clear direct tone.

She also provoked some laughter in the courtroom when she told Cooper she had read very little about the Sirhan case because "I don't read either of the Los Angeles newspapers."

"Why?" asked Cooper.
"Because I don't think the two Los Angeles daily papers are very well-written," she explained.

Has Own TV Set

She told Cooper that her reading included the sports section of The Times, "the New York Times when someone hands it to me," and two magazine subscriptions, to Time Magazine and Sports Illustrated.

She does own a television set, she said, but added, "my son is the only one who watches it."

In questioning Mrs. Collins, Fitts asked if she would be inclined to be lenient in her verdict on Sirhan because of his apparent youth.

"Would you give the kid a break just because he's a kid?" Fitts asked.

"No," said Mrs. Collins. Mrs. Collins also said she believed that the murder of Kennedy made the case no bigger a murder simply because the victim was a prominent political figure.

'Most Difficult' Task

Fitts asked her, as he has each prospective juror, "Could you come down from the jury room and face Sirhan and tell him he must die in the gas chamber?"

"It would be the most difficult thing I've ever had to do," she said, "but I could do it."

Three jurors were excused Tuesday after telling the court they would suffer loss of pay or even their jobs if the trial were to take up the expected two or three months. A fourth was excused after he said the trial would be a personal hardship because of illness in his home.

At a news conference after adjournment, defense attorney Emile Zola Berman of New York said the selection of three jurors in one day made him feel "a lot more sanguine today than when we started," but he estimated that impaneling the jury will still take another 18 days.

After 12 jurors are provisionally seated, both defense and prosecution may exercise 20 peremptory challenges each to dispose of jurors about whom they have doubts.

Political Issue

Asked if the Arab-Israeli political situation was expected to figure in Sirhan's trial, Berman said the defense would not introduce the topic, but that it would figure insofar as it goes to explain Sirhan's motivations.

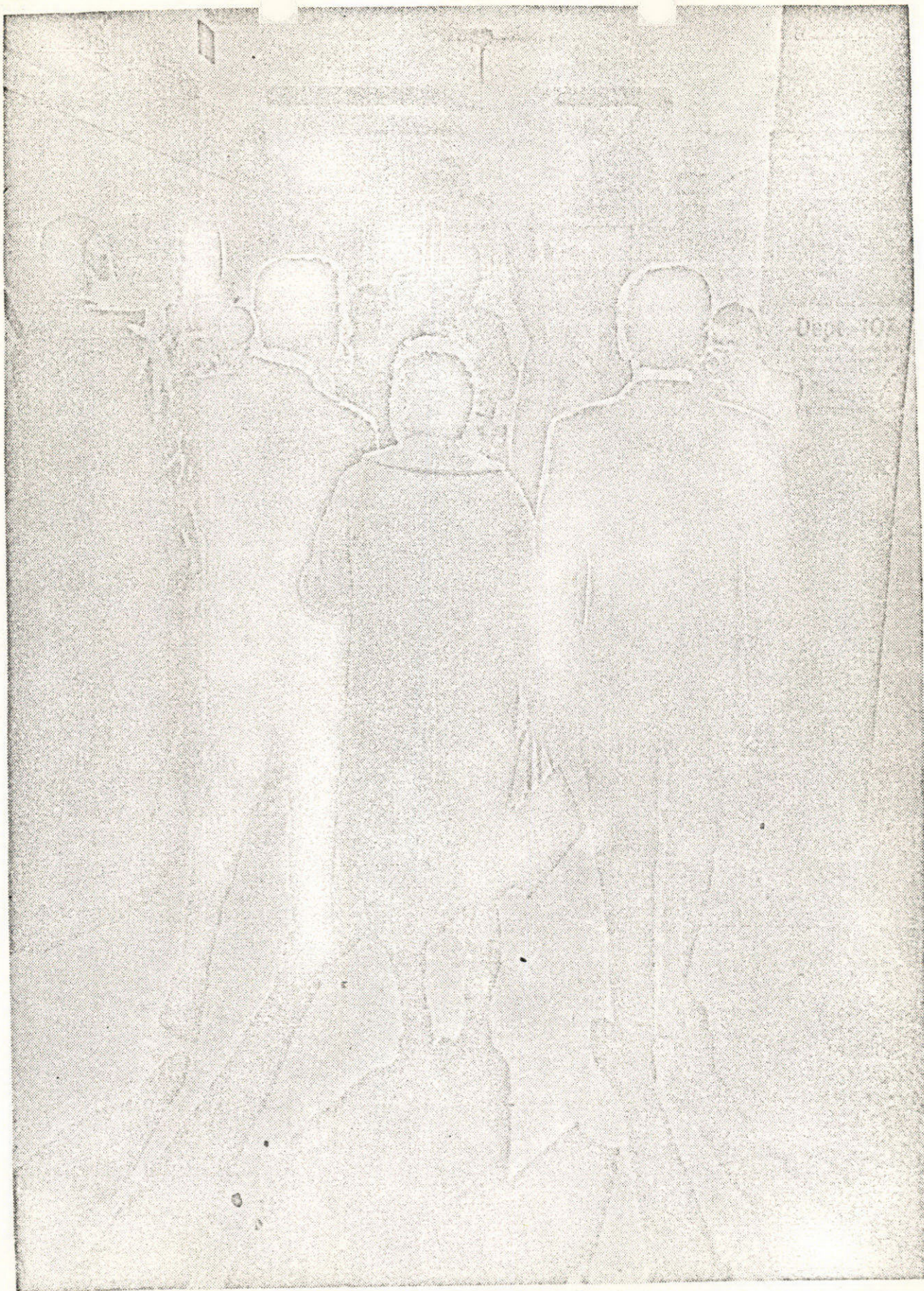
"We will offer scientific evidence as well as the history, background, and problems of the defendant," Berman said, to support the defense contention that the "intellectual content necessary to a premeditated act is not present in this case. That's going to be our defense."

Berman confirmed that Sirhan has been placed under hypnosis and has been administered the Rorschach (ink-blot) test and the test for the XYY chromosome syndrome.

Plan Uncertain

But he did not say whether these tests would be introduced into evidence.

The XYY syndrome is a recent scientific development by some geneticists who claim that certain males are born with an extra Y chromosome for maleness, and that the presence of this extra chromosome carries with it a tendency to resort to aggressive behavior.



DAILY ROUTINE—Members of Sirhan B. Sirhan's family make their daily trek to court and face bat-

tery of lights and cameras. From left: Adel Sirhan, a brother, Mrs. Sirhan and a second brother, Munir. Times photo by John Malinin

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Insists He's American

NEW YORK (AP)—Sirhan B. Sirhan, the Jordanian immigrant on trial in Los Angeles for the murder of Robert F. Kennedy, blazed with resentment last fall at a story saying he wasn't legally an American, a writer says.

The writer, Robert B. Kaiser, interviewed Sirhan in his tiny cell in the Los Angeles Hall of Justice in August and December. His report appears in the Jan. 17 issue of Life magazine.

Kaiser says Sirhan was angered by William F. Buckley's article "The Politics of Assassination," which said Sirhan "was legally a Jordanian citizen. His loyalties were clearly to Jordan."

"What does he mean?" Sirhan said angrily. "Not American!"

Kaiser says Sirhan told him later: "I feel like an American. If I went back to Jordan I would be a foreigner."

Another time Sirhan said he felt like a man without a country, Kaiser says.

He quotes Sirhan as saying his very name set him apart.

"As soon as anyone heard it, everything else stopped. They wanted to know, 'What kind of name is that?' I began to associate more and more with my name. Sirhan means wolf, and I became more and more a lone wolf," Sirhan said.

Sirhan said he was injured in the melee in the service pantry of the hotel where Kennedy was shot last June.

"I felt a choking in my throat, and people were holding me and beating me and twisting my left knee and pounding my head on the table. They hurt my left eye. It still hurts," Sirhan said.

At first Sirhan read a newspaper each day, but then he cancelled it when he became depressed by world events, Kaiser says.

"It's all violence, chaos, unrest. Whatever happened to the old days, peace and quiet?" he quotes Sirhan as asking.

(The interviewer, Robert B. Kaiser, is a "staff investigator" for Sirhan's legal corps, which permitted Kaiser an exclusive interview in Sirhan's County jail cell).

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Sirhan Will Not Deny Shooting, Attorney Says

But Cooper Tells Panel
of Jury Prospects That
Intent Must Be Established

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

"At the outset you should know that there will be no denial of the fact that our client fired a shot or shots that killed Sen. Kennedy."

Thus did chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper address a group of 25 prospective jurors Monday as jury selection got under way at the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

It was the first time the senator's name had been uttered in open court since the trial began last Tuesday.

Cooper said admissibility of a prospective juror depended, in part, upon the juror's ability to separate knowledge of the 24-year-old Jordanian defendant's act in shooting Kennedy from a consideration of intent.

Both the act and the intent must be established, Cooper said, before the jury may return a verdict of first-degree murder. Such a verdict requires a penalty of death in the gas chamber or life imprisonment.

Of eight of the 25 prospective jurors questioned Monday, only one, Mrs. Rosa A. Molina, was passed provisionally by both defense and prosecution.

Four were quickly dismissed, two were asked to check with their employers whether they could retain their jobs over a prolonged trial, and the eighth, Miss Carolyn L. Freeman, was still being questioned by the defense at adjournment.

1st Prospective Juror Excused

The first prospective juror was George E. Doudle, who said he works on research and development for Aerospace Corp. Doudle answered Cooper's questions easily and quietly, and admitted that knowledge of Sirhan's shooting of Kennedy would render him unable to consider the question on motivation separately.

Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts cross-examined Doudle, paraphrasing Cooper's questions but getting the same answers.

"Well," said Fitts, "I guess we couldn't put it any plainer than that."

Doudle was excused.

The next two jurors excused were Guillermo Salvador, a machine operator and labor union member, who said a prolonged trial could cause him to lose his job, and Mrs. Lois E. Knowlton, who said her husband was in poor health and that "he can't eat in restaurants every night" if the trial draws on too long.

Mrs. Molina, a widowed nurse, was taken into Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's chambers for a part of questioning that the defense and prosecution have agreed should not take place in open court.

Such questions reportedly involve the influence wide publicity has exerted on the juror's opinion.

Discussions Not Revealed

All parties to the closed sessions—attorneys for both sides, the prospective juror and the defendant—have been ordered not to reveal these discussions.

Mrs. Molina reappeared after 15 minutes of private questioning and thus presumably had cleared the preliminary high hurdles.

After lengthy questioning by both defense and prosecution whether she would be inclined to disregard testimony on possible diminished responsibility, (limited responsibility of a defendant for a crime)—which the defense indicates will be the major part of its defense effort—Mrs. Molina was passed, "for cause," by both sides.

This means that neither side found any legal objections to Mrs. Molina's serving as a juror.

Each side, however, is entitled to 20 peremptory challenges of any juror. This phase takes place after

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12 jurors have been accepted "for cause."

Following Mrs. Molina were Mrs. Betty J. Kraker, a food laboratory technician, and Max H. Jensen, a Southern California Edison employee. Both said they felt they could lose their jobs if the trial lasted two months or more, but Judge Walker directed them to ask their employers and report back today. The seventh prospective juror, Mrs. Nadine M. Echols, was excused after she told the court she has three children, 8, 10 and 13, and that the sequestering of the jury would be a family hardship.

Miss Freeman, a clerk for Pacific Telephone, said her company would pay her salary for the first month of jury duty, but added, "I live at home, so I could do without my salary after that."

The 25 prospective jurors—12 women and 13 men—were led in from a waiting room on an upper floor and through Judge Walker's chambers. They, unlike any other persons attending the trial thus far, are not being searched.

Admits Some Risk

Asked if this introduced an element of possible risk to the diminutive defendant, Cooper admitted that there was some risk but added: "You just can't expect jurors to submit to searching. You have to trust somebody."

Cooper said Judge Walker originally intended that jurors be searched but that the defense objected.

The jurors sat soberly, sometimes nodding in assent, as Judge Walker, owl-faced but smiling, peered intently at them through tangled white eyebrows and instructed them in a grandfatherly tone on the limits of their function as jurors.

Judge Walker, 69, facing the biggest trial of his career before his planned retirement in July, told the jurors that whatever conception of the law they may have formed, or whatever instructions another judge may have given them in previous jury duty, they were to adhere solely to the concept of the law given to them from his own bench.

All nodded in agreement. They appeared equally sober as Judge Walker informed them that the 12-man jury and six alternates will be locked up at a downtown hotel throughout the entire trial — which could run two months or more — except for weekend visits from a wife or husband.

Grins at Mother

As Sirhan entered the courtroom shortly after 10 a.m., he flashed a quick wave and a bright grin to his mother, Mary, and two brothers, Adel and Munir, who sat in the last row of the courtroom.

He turned to them frequently during the morning to exchange nods and smiles.

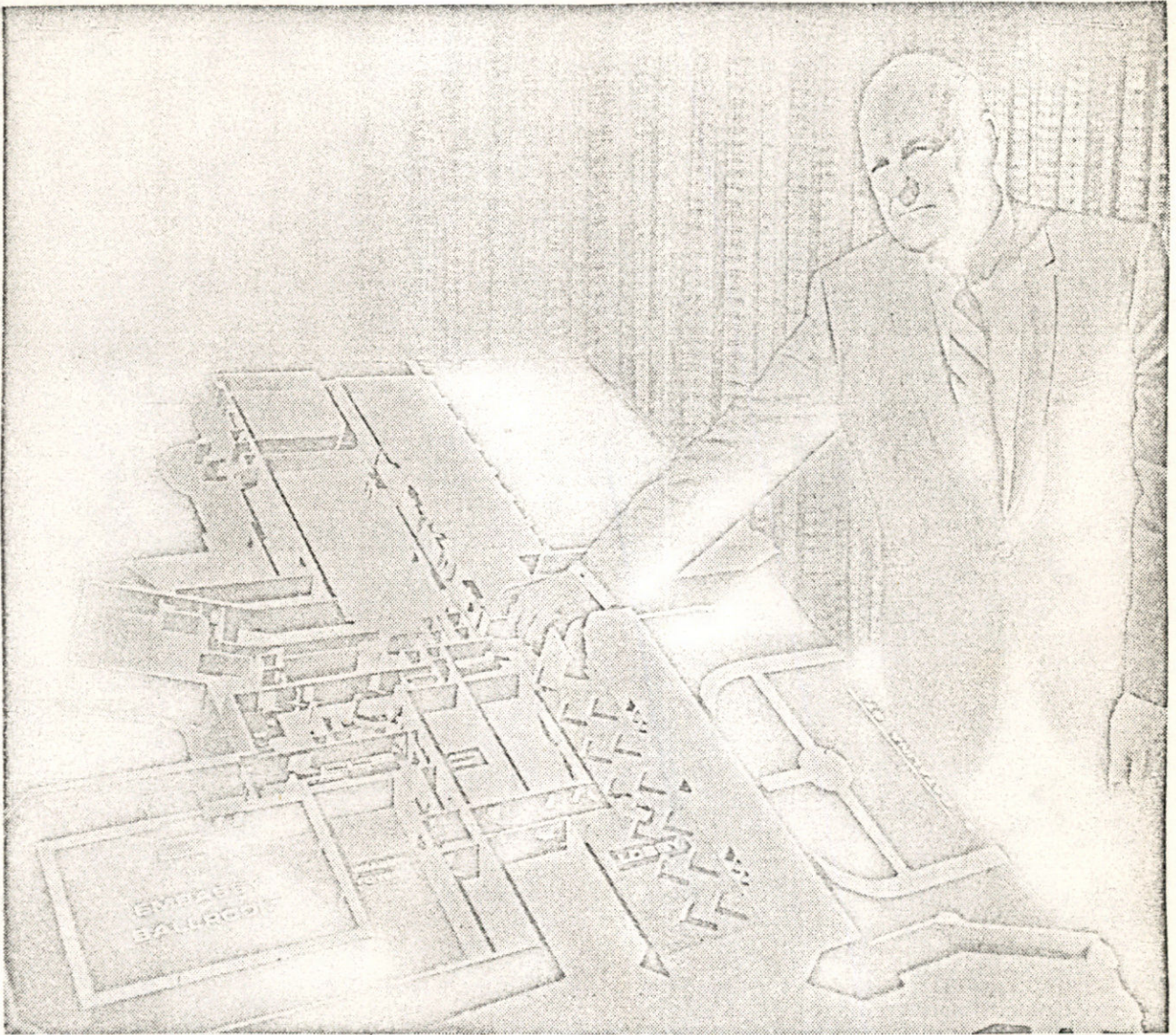
Throughout the judge's instructions to the jury and Cooper's initial questions, Sirhan was intent on the proceedings, often leaning forward in his swivel chair to catch jurors' responses.

At other times he teetered gently in his chair and stared back at newsmen in the 75-seat courtroom, eyes roving solemnly from face to face.

The first business of the court Monday was quick disposal of a defense motion to set aside the trial jury list, on defense contentions that the list 'does not represent a fair cross section of the population.'

After studying the four-volume, 1,010-page transcript of another case throughout the weekend, the defense was unable to find relevant points in that case that they felt supported their original motion to set aside the list.

Judge Walker denied the motion and jury selection began immediately.



HOTEL LAYOUT — Chief of Detectives Robert Houghton examines mockup of Ambassador floor

where Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was slain. Model is expected to be used in trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan.
Times photo by Bill Murphy

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan's Jury By Computer

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Sometime this week 100 men and women awaiting Los Angeles County jury duty will be moved from their accustomed waiting room in the County Court House to what's called Dept. 75 in the old Hall of Records—a baroque highrise which glowers over Spring Street at Temple Street.

There they will wait, and wait, and wait.

Finally, a quarter of their number will be moved again—this time across Temple Street to Dept. 107—the armor-plated 8th floor courtroom in the Hall of Justice where Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is on trial for his life, accused of the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Some of these 25, and of the many panels of 25 prospects each who will be called on many succeeding days may become the 12 who will judge the young Jordanian guilty or innocent, and perhaps, whether he will live or die.

The Sirhan murder trial is an extraordinary case. And consequently the selection of its jury also will be extraordinary—not only as to the security which must be maintained over the jury, but also as to the very

manner in which jurors, are chosen.

The selection process, both legally and physically, will range from the usual to the bizarre—with emphasis on the bizarre.

The prospects were chosen by the County Registrar of Juror's computer at the request of the Superior Court Jury Commissioner.

The computer used the "key number of five." This means that every fifth person listed on the registrar's voter list in every fifth precinct was tapped as a prospect.

Accustomed to the rather informal atmosphere of come and go in Los Angeles County courtrooms, the jurors will first meet the same heavily-guarded security perimeter everyone else who enters Dept. 107—scene of the Sirhan trial—encounters. But there will be a difference.

They will not be required to undergo the thorough search which newsmen, witnesses, and even the guarding deputies themselves are put.

Once inside the courtroom they will wait in spectator seats—displacing some newsmen who will have to watch the trial via closed-circuit television in

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Once inside the courtroom they will wait in spectator seats—displacing some newsmen who will have to watch the trial via closed-circuit television in the auxiliary courtroom on the Hall of Justice's fourth floor until the jury is selected.

Twelve at a time, they will take their places in the jury box to answer defense and prosecution questions as to their fitness to serve. They will answer some, but not all, the questions put to them from the box, and in public.

The rest of the questioning will be done in secret, in the chambers of Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presides at the trial.

Judge Walker wants the private session to ascertain from each prospective juror what publicity he has seen and heard on the case, and what influence the opinions of friends, relatives and neighbors may hold over him.

He points out that to do this questioning in open court would defeat its purpose, because the possible prejudice of one prospect would be aired, and might influence two dozen others.

Defense and prosecution lawyers have agreed to the secret questioning, which is unusual—but not, according to Chief De-

rense Counsel Grant B. Cooper, unprecedented in California.

The lawyers for both sides, and Sirhan himself, will be present at, and may participate in the private questioning. Records of the proceedings will be made public at the trial's end.

Normal court procedure is to select two or four alternates in addition to the 12 jurors who will ultimately decide a defendant's fate. In the Sirhan case, Judge Walker has called for six alternates. They will serve on the actual trial jury; if one of the central 12 falls ill, or for some reason is disqualified.

No man, nor woman, will be finally named to the jury until all 18 are chosen. Up until that time any tentatively accepted juror may be challenged, and perhaps disqualified for service.

This means that a prospect might think he was cleared the first day of the selection process, only to find himself excused just prior to the swearing of the jury.

How long will jury selection take?

Judge Walker forecasts two and one-half weeks. Some attorneys in the case speculate a month. No one, of course, really knows.

Jury selection in the first murder trial of Dr. Bernard Finch and his mistress-receptionist Carole Tregoff took nine court days—a little more than two weeks—and was considered extraordinarily long.

Cooper believes the Sirhan jury selection will take far longer, both because of the nature of the case and because of greater latitude in questioning jurors provided in recent court decisions.

When the 12 jurors and six alternates are finally selected and sworn, they will be "sequestered"—locked up for the balance of the trial—perhaps as long as three months.

On weekends they may be visited by their "spouses of record." Overnight visits are provided for in a precedent-breaking order by Judge Walker.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

DEFENDANT OGLES BLONDE**Jaunty Sirhan, DA's
Aide Swap Repartee****BY DAVE SMITH**

Times Staff Writer

A jaunty Sirhan Bishara Sirhan swapped repartee with Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts Wednesday as Fitts questioned a prospective juror in Sirhan's first-degree murder trial.

Sirhan's impromptu remark was the first time the 24-year-old Jordanian has spoken loudly in court.

Fitts had just asked Lawrence Morgan, a systems analyst for International Business Machines Corp., whether he would have the courage to face Sirhan three or four months from now "and tell him face to face that for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, you must die in the gas chamber."

As Fitts spoke, Sirhan abruptly leaned forward in his swivel chair and smiled broadly at Morgan.

Fitts continued quickly to Morgan: "You can see him now, he just leaned over, and even smiled at you. He may smile at you all through the trial."

'Smile at You, Too'

"I smile at you, too, Mr. Fitts," Sirhan blurted in a clear, but good natured tone.

"Yes, you do," said Fitts. "You smile a lot."

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker cut off the dialog with the admonition: "Restrict yourself to the questions, Mr. Fitts."

The prosecuting attorney repeated his question to Morgan, and Morgan said he could tell Sirhan directly if he should decide on a death penalty.

Morgan, Leslie H. Laney, a Post Office employe, and Alfonso Gakido, a civilian mechanic employed by the U.S. Navy, became the first three men provisionally seated on the jury. Four women already had been tentatively seated.

A milestone of sorts was reached Wednesday afternoon when Mrs. Alvina Alvidrez, the 21st prospective juror to be questioned, became the first to say she has conscientious objections to the death penalty.

Quite Explicit on Position

All 20 previous prospects—the 13 dismissed and the seven tentatively seated—have said they are not opposed to the extreme penalty.

But Mrs. Alvidrez, speaking in heavily accented but quite explicit English, said that "under no circumstances whatsoever" could she return a guilty verdict if a death penalty might result.

She was equally precise in stating that despite her view, she felt qualified to sit in judgment on the question of guilt or innocence.

Fitts challenged the seating of Mrs. Alvidrez, but Judge Walker disallowed the challenge and said arguments would continue today on her qualifications to sit on the Sirhan case.

Defense atty. Grant B. Cooper, talking to newsmen after adjournment, cited a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision and a California Supreme Court decision in which murder convictions were reversed because the jury excluded persons opposed to the death penalty.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Witherspoon case held, in part, that "a jury from which all prospective jurors who oppose the imposition of the death penalty are excluded is not an impartial jury but rather constitutes a hanging jury . . . one that is uncommonly willing

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to condemn a man to die

... (and which) speaks for a distinct and dwindling minority."

Cooper said the Satterfield-Anderson case before the state high court was based on the Witherspoon case, and that California law further provides for two juries to try a case—one for the issue of guilt or innocence and the other, if needed, to decide the penalty.

As a result, Cooper said, Mrs. Alvidrez could not legally be excluded from the Sirhan jury, and that if a first-degree murder conviction were returned, an entirely new jury would have to be impaneled to decide whether Sirhan should get a life sentence or die in the gas chamber.

Mrs. Alvidrez' position represents a ticklish situation for the prosecution. It can, after a full 12-man jury is tentatively seated, exclude her by exercising one of their 20 peremptory challenges.

But if they should do so, and if Sirhan should subsequently be convicted of first-degree murder, there is some question whether such a conviction could not also be reversed, on the same grounds as in the Witherspoon and Satterfield-Anderson cases.

"The precise question that is now before this court has never been definitely settled," Cooper said.

Sirhan's demeanor in court Wednesday seemed markedly lighthearted, in contrast to earlier days.

Speaks in Arabic

As he entered the courtroom he spotted an acquaintance in the back row, and said, brightly, in Arabic, "Abdeen, how's your health today?"

"Fine, thank you," answered Abdeen Jabara, 28, a Detroit-born attorney of Lebanese parentage. Jabara, who has identified himself only as a defense consultant, said he has been in Los Angeles for two weeks but that he had made one previous visit here since Sen. Kennedy was shot June 5.

He said he had not known the Sirhan family previously and that "I'm just out here as an observer—to observe the situation."

Jabara said he is with the Detroit law firm of Lafferty, Reosti and Jabara, but would name no other affiliations.

He is not an attorney of record in the Sirhan case, but for the last three days has sat with Sirhan's mother, Mary, and brothers Adel and Munir in the rear of the courtroom.

Jabara said he became a defense consultant on his own initiative and that he was not invited by defense attorneys. Both Cooper and Emile Zola Berman of the defense team confirmed this statement, adding that Jabara has done some translating from Arabic to English for them.

Affection for Parsons

During the questioning of jurors, Sirhan leaned close to his third defense counsel, Russell E. Parsons, 69, for whom he reportedly has developed a strong affection.

Whenever Sirhan enters the court before Parsons is seated, he invariably positions the elderly man's chair and greets him warmly.

Wednesday Sirhan whispered often to Parsons, touching his sleeve and patting him affectionately on the back, seeming almost to cling to the attorney's presence.

After the exchange of remarks with Fitts, Cooper came to sit with Sirhan, while Parsons for the first time took over questioning of a juror.

During this time Sirhan sat back in his chair and followed Parsons' questions intently.

But at one point, an attractive blonde spectator in an orange dress entered the court and Sirhan watched her as she went to her seat. Then he nudged Cooper, quirked an appreciative eyebrow, and made some whispered comment, which Cooper rewarded with a quiet chuckle.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Defense Stressing Use of Hypnosis

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Hypnosis has been used on Sirhan Bishara Sirhan by psychiatrists seeking to determine his mental state at the time he shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Use of the hypnosis technique, which was hinted during selection of the jury for the man accused of Kennedy's assassination, was confirmed yesterday by Emile Zola Berman, one of his attorneys.

Berman told a news conference called by defense lawyers following adjournment of court that the psychologists and psychiatrists working with Sirhan had also administered the Roschach or ink-blot test. He declined to discuss the findings, saying he would leave this to the psychiatrists when they testify on Sirhan's behalf.

Each of the four jurors tentatively seated so far was passed by the defense only after he testified he regarded psychiatry as a "true" science and hypnosis and Roschach tests as "valid" tools of that science.

Sirhan was hypnotized in his isolated cell on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice where he has been held since his indictment for Kennedy's slaying, June 7, 1968.

Berman made it clear that the defense would continue to approve only jurors who accept psychiatry and hypnosis when selection of the jury resumes today.

The New York attorney, who joined Grant B. Cooper and Russell E. Parsons on Sirhan's defense team when the trial opened last week, said he was "sanguine" over success in obtaining tentative jurors reached yesterday.

But, he warned, jury selection still is expected to take "at least 18 more court days." This would mean the actual trial would not get underway until sometime in February.

As Sirhan alternately watched glumly or ignored the proceedings altogether, three jurors, all women, were tentatively accepted yesterday.

They are:

Caroline Freeman, clerk for the Pacific Telephone Company's "Yellow Pages."

Mrs. Alicia Duke, accountant for the State Division of Lands.

Mrs. Barbara Collins, a telephone company service representative.

They joined Mrs. Rose Mollen, a widowed nurse, bringing the total of jurors tentatively accepted so far to four.

This morning, questioning of Lawrence K. Morgan, International Business Machine computer programmer, will resume.

Morgan is the first male juror to reach the detailed questioning stage. With the exception of one man, George Douale, who was excused when he testified he did not believe he could try Sirhan's case fairly, all men examined so far have been released either for reasons of health or economic hardship.

Although many business firms make provision for their employees to serve on juries, few are willing to guarantee the job of a man who may be tied up on jury duty from three to four months.

Defense lawyers have refused to comment on their reaction to an all-woman jury, but they are known to be concerned.

For most of yesterday's session Sirhan did not acknowledge the courtroom presence of his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, and brothers Adel and Munir (Joe). In all previous days' sessions he

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—Herald-Examiner Photo

EMILE ZOLA BERMAN Tells of hypnosis

has greeted them with a cheery wave.

Yesterday he only glowered at them until near the end of the session when he sheepishly grinned and raised his arm in a half-salute.

Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presides over the trial, yesterday spelled out in detail the accommodations arranged for the jurors when they are "sequestered" (locked up) during the trial. The 12 jurors finally selected, and six alternates, will be kept under guard in a hotel, once they are sworn in.

Walker's explanation came when Delos Bezold, a prospective juror, said he believed being locked in a hotel room for a three-month trial would leave him "climbing the walls."

The judge explained that each juror would have a private room. There will be a special dining room and a "recreation room" for the jurors. They will be permitted to watch and listen to "monitored" television and radio.

He said the jury would be brought to and from court in a chartered bus.

"The Sheriff and I," Walker explained, "have selected the

accommodations with all regard for the personal comfort of the jury."

Walker declines to name the hotel where the jury will be kept. That will be announced only after the final jury is selected and sworn.

When questioning resumes this morning, the defense will continue to seek only those jurors who agree that, if it is proved, they will be willing to accept the defense of so-called diminished capacity.

Berman yesterday termed this the "primary defense" for Sirhan.

He explained that the defense will seek to show that on June 5, 1968, when Sirhan shot the New York Senator in a kitchen off the Ambassador Hotel's Embassy Room, he "did not have the intellectual content necessary for a premeditated act (of murder)."

David N. Fitts, deputy prosecutor, who is handling jury selection for the state, continues to raise the question of the youth of the defendant.

He asked Mrs. Collins if, in view of Sirhan's age—24—she would, "give the kid a break just because he's a kid."

Mrs. Collins, who appears no older than Sirhan, answered with a firm "no."

The jurors tentatively present thus far a study in contrast in age and style.

Mrs. Collins yesterday wore a modish yellow tweed suit and white accessories. Her hair is upswept and she wears "mod" hornrimmed glasses. She speaks in a low voice, and even with a microphone is sometimes difficult to hear.

Mrs. Duke, who clearly considers herself an intellectual, wears her hair in tight ringlets and speaks in a loud, clear voice.

Miss Freeman, who wore a shocking pink dressmaker dress, also wears glasses and speaks clearly.

Mrs. Molina, the oldest juror chosen so far, barely murmurs.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SIRHAN JUROR: 'GUILTY PENALTY, YES. DEATH PENALTY, NO.'

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

"Absolute" opposition to California's death penalty has failed to cost a La Puente woman a place on the jury that will try Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker late yesterday denied a prosecution challenge to the tentative seating of Mrs. Alvina Alvidrez who said "no set of facts" in a murder trial could induce her to vote the death penalty.

"Guilty penalty, yes. Death penalty, no," Mrs. Alvidrez told the court.

Deputy District Attorney David N. Fitts is expected to renew his challenge of Mrs. Alvidrez when court reconvenes this morning, and Judge Walker has agreed to listen to him.

But the jurist made it clear yesterday that as he reads decisions of both the United States and California Supreme Courts, Mrs. Alvidrez may not be disqualified solely because of her unshakable opposition to the gas chamber.

Mrs. Alvidrez, dressed in a white waitress uniform and speaking with a heavy Spanish accent, was unshaken as Judge Walker, Fitts and defense attorney Grant B. Cooper pressed her on her anti-death penalty convictions.

The first prospective juror to voice any opposition to the gas chamber, she replied with a loud, "No, sir," when Cooper asked her:

"Do you mean to tell the court there is no set of facts in

any murder trial that could induce you to vote for the death penalty?

"You mean you could never vote for a verdict of death under any circumstances whatsoever?"

Fitts sought twice to challenge Mrs. Alvidrez. The first challenge was because he believed there was a question as to whether she would follow Judge Walker's instructions on the law during the trial.

When this failed, he advanced the death penalty challenge.

Judge Walker turned him down both times after Cooper announced:

"We take the position we are entitled to have this juror."

The problem, Cooper explained to newsmen following the day's adjournment, is the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Witherspoon case. In it, the high court overturned an Illinois murder conviction because all persons opposed to the death penalty were excluded from the jury.

Reviewing the U.S. Supreme Court decision, the California high court found:

"A jury from which all opponents to the death penalty are excluded is not an impartial jury but a hanging jury.

"... It is uncommonly willing to condemn a man to die ... It can speak only for a dwindling minority ..."

The prosecution in the Sirhan case has announced it will probably "urge" the death penalty for the man on trial for the June 5, 1968, slaying of Senator Kennedy.

Under California law, if Sirhan is convicted of first-degree

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murder, the same jury that convicts him must set the penalty at either death or life imprisonment. The law gives no guidance to the penalty jury. The decision is left solely to its collective judgment and conscience. Whatever the verdict, it must be unanimous.

Cooper believes Mrs. Alvidrez may lawfully be seated on the Sirhan jury. The prosecution, of course, could hurl one of its preemptory challenges at her (dismiss her without giving a reason), but even that might be on weak ground, according to the defense counsel.

It appears that, under California law, if Mrs. Alvidrez or any other death penalty opponent, is seated on the Sirhan jury, and if Sirhan is found guilty of first-degree murder, a new jury would have to be chosen to set the penalty.

This is one of the prosecution's goals, set early in the trial.

If this happens, the net effect would be two complete trials for Sirhan. The new jury would have to be told the facts in the case. Court sources believe this course of action possible, but highly unlikely.

Before the questioning of Mrs. Alvidrez, three men were tentatively seated on the jury. They were:

Lawrence K. Morgan, IBM computer programmer.

Leslie H. Laney, Los Angeles postal clerk.

Alphonso Galindo, U.S. Navy civilian mechanic from Long Beach.

The first panel of 25 jurors was exhausted yesterday and Judge Walker called for a new panel—this time of 15 to permit the seating of more newsmen in the crowded court.

Seven prospects of the original panel—four women and three men—have been tentatively accepted by prosecution and defense. Thirteen men and women were excused and four others are seated in the jury box awaiting questioning.

Yesterday, Sirhan was buoyant when he was brought from his cell.

The 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant, who had appeared glum and distraught since jury selection began Monday, smiled and joked throughout the day.

He called an Arabic greeting to a defense interpreter, Abdeen Jabara, upon entering the courtroom.

Later he verbally tangled with Fitts, when the prosecutor commented on his smiling at a prospective juror, telling Fitts: "I smile at you, too, Mr. Fitts."

In the afternoon session he waved several times to his brothers Munir and Adel, seated in their accustomed places in the back of the courtroom.

Asked for an explanation of his change in demeanor, Michael McGowan, chief investigator for the defense said:

"He is happier. He is coming to know we love him."

Also, said McGowan, Sirhan had been greatly buoyed by a visit from his family Tuesday night.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SIRHAN, A MAN ACCUSED IT'S NOT AN EASY JOB BUT SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT A Day in Court With the Pivotal Figure in the Kennedy Murder Case

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By JAN MEIER

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Would \$5 a day compensate for disruption of family life and business routine, possibly for three months or longer?

Prospective jurors for Sirhan B. Sirhan have to decide.

In fact, some already have been granted permission by Judge Herbert V. Walker to ask employers if their jobs would be jeopardized by the lengthy jury duty.

But personal business, except as applied to necessary care by a mother for minor children, seldom constitutes sufficient reason for excuse from jury duty, although the Sirhan panel will be locked up and their personal lives temporarily closed for the trial's duration.

In a trial innovation, however, wives and husbands of the Sirhan jury will be allowed to spend week-ends with their juror spouses. Nominal expenses will be charged the "spouses of record," though the jurors are on an expense-paid tour of duty.

Stanford Briden, assistant jury commissioner, explained the jury call entitles each prospect to \$5 daily "reimbursement," provided by law, beginning the first day of appearance for possible service.

In addition to their compensation, each of the jurors is allowed 15 cents a mile "ingoing only" (one way) beginning the first day of appearance. While sequestered (locked up) during the trial, meals, lodging and "reasonable and necessary" expenses will be paid by the county.

Reasoning behind the one-way mileage payment is hazy, but a jury commission spokesman suggested it could date back to the days of the horse and buggy.

Prospective jurors would be given an allowance to buy food for his horse while in town, but would be presumed to have food for the animal at home.

Money thus paid the jurors is not subject to Social Security tax. But must be reported on income tax returns.

Payment of jurors' expenses is the responsibility of the city or county in which the court is held, Briden said, and Los Angeles County is picking up the tab for Sirhan's jurors.

With the 70 courts in the Central District, in excess of 500 persons are on the jury payroll daily, he said, either serving on panels or waiting for the call.

Hardship is only one of many possible reasons for excusing a prospective juror, however, and answers given to questions asked by prosecution and defense attorneys, and the trial judge, are the real determiners.

★ ★ ★

Interested always in giving every defendant a fair trial, the American court system bans any prospective juror who asserts prejudice in either direction.

"It would be awfully hard," said Fay Doris Bell, an elevator operator in the Hall of Justice, who said she has a predetermined idea on the defendant's guilt or innocence, and "would rather not be one" of the jurors.

"Someone has to do it and I wouldn't mind," said Richard Govan, elevator starter.

While attorneys asked similar questions of actual prospects in the eighth floor courtroom, Govan pondered his reactions to conclusions as to the defendant's state of mind at the time of the criminal act.

"I wouldn't have any objection to being a juror," Govan said, as he clicked his castanet, giving the order for a car to begin its ascent.

"But I couldn't determine anything about any defendant's state of mind until I have heard all of his testimony. Maybe

after I heard all there is to hear about the circumstances, then I could sit in judgment."

"If you arrived at a decision of guilt, which you feel warrants the death penalty, would you be able to face the defendant, who no longer could be considered a total stranger, and pronounce that verdict to him?" Govan was asked, as were prospects facing Superior Judge Herbert O. Walker.

Considering, Govan replied:

"If I have reached a verdict in my own mind, yes, I could relay it to the accused."

Family members of the defendant and others attending the trial become known, in some ways, to operators of the courthouse elevators. They learn to spot the morbidly curious and the thrill-seekers in the crowds.

★ ★ ★

Visiting the Hall of Justice as part of a field trip for a class in American Government, 12 students from Santa Fe High School appeared at the Sirhan courtroom entrance.

Surprised at the extreme security enveloping the trial procedure, one of the students denounced the measures as "a waste of money."

"What's fair for one man on trial should be fair for all," the student said. "He shouldn't be entitled to all this."

★ ★ ★

Noting a slight build-up in the size of crowds waiting to gain entry to the courtroom each morning, one of the security guards said the group has become quiet as jury selection proceeds.

"This is serious business. The circus is over. Now a man's life really is going to be decided," the guard said.

One of five spectators in afternoon sessions of the court proceedings was Bob Weir, a student at Boise State College, who "happened" to be on hand at 3:40 p.m. when a spectator vacated his seat.

Voicing surprise at the difference in security, Weir said he thought the jury also should be searched, since he was "frisked thoroughly" before being allowed into the courtroom.

"Deputies inside the courtroom seemed tense," Weir said, "as though expecting something at any moment."

"On the other hand," he added, "Sirhan and his attorney seemed very relaxed, whispering to each other and joking."

Though Weir said he would "not be anxious" to serve as a juror in Sirhan's trial, he has no objection to use of the death penalty in cases, "where it is deserved."

"I have mixed emotions," said Mrs. Rodney Seoll of San Diego, in Los Angeles on business over the week-end, and who stayed Monday to try to gain entry to the Sirhan courtroom.

"As a mother," she said, "and I know other mothers feel as I do, I know how hard it must be for Sirhan's mother to see her son on trial for murder."

"But if he's found guilty, he should be executed," she said. "If it were my own son, I would pray I'd have the courage to say that anyway. But I know a mother sees it differently. Maybe she doesn't think he really is guilty. It would be hard to decide, and I'm glad I don't have to be one of the jurors."

"They seem sort of removed, like they're always busier with something else," said one of the women waiting for the elevator, referring to the Sirhan family.

"I've seen them twice, and both times they don't look like they're here for the thing they're here for," she said.

Most of the crowds are middle-aged people with only a few students, though guards and elevator operators expect the younger elements to be more interested in the actual trial, more than the selection of jurors.

Tense—a tightly-coiled
spring.

Almost carefree—smiling
and waving to his family
across a crowded courtroom.

Bewildered—sometimes
seeming more a puzzled spec-
tator than the subject of one
of the greatest dramas of this
century.

All these are Sirhan Bishara
Sirhan as he watches his trial
for the killing of Sen. Robert
F. Kennedy unfold behind the
walls of his armored, eighth-
floor courtroom in the Hall of
Justice.

The grim phrase "gas
chamber" was specifically
mentioned for the first time at
Monday's court session, and
for a moment observers
feared the 24-year-old defen-
dant would become physically
ill.

Yet the moment passed, and
with it apparently his terror.

Soon he was staring off into
space, his hands loosely fold-
ed, paying little attention to
the battle being waged around
and over him.

Each day as he enters court
his eyes search the rear of the
room for his family. Usually
when he sees them he waves
a peculiar wave, with fingers
far outstretched.

But one greeting was dif-
ferent. When he spotted his
mother Mrs. Mary Sirhan,
and his brothers, Adel and
Munir (Joe), he raised his
arm in a clenched fist salute.

Sirhan, according to a mem-
ber of his defense staff, has
taken a fancy to a tall, blonde
woman reporter covering his
trial. Twice he waved, and
tried to catch her eye.

She blushed, and turned her
head away.

Here is a

dimensional

look at the Sirhan

Bishara Sirhan

trial during

its second week

in Los Angeles.

At left, staff

artist Bryon

Robley gives his

visual impressions

of the defendant

during a recent

session.

Accompanying the

illustration in

column one is

staff writer John

Douglas' word-portrait

of Sirhan during the

same moments the

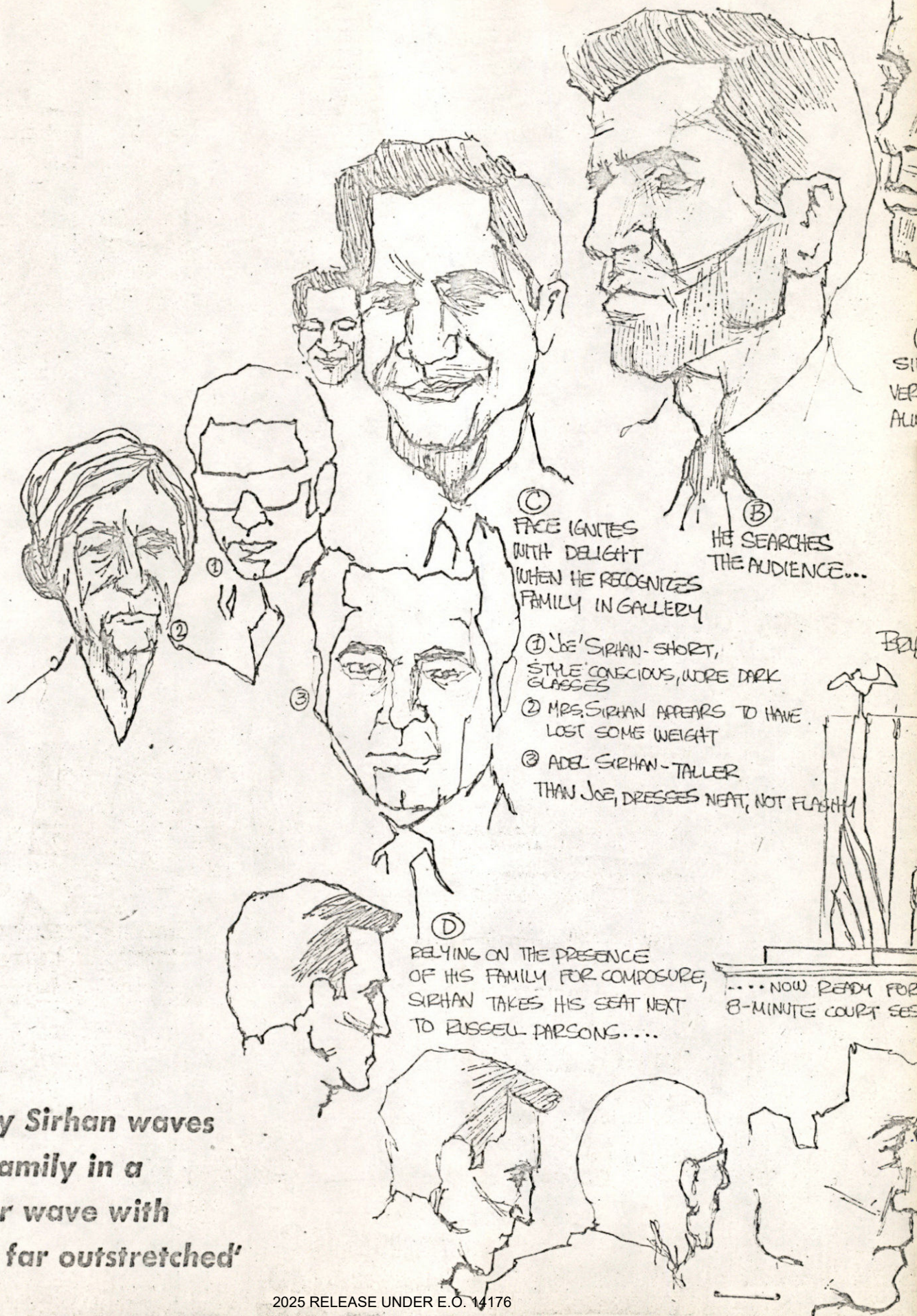
illustrations were

developed. Below,

staff writer Jan

Meier gives her view

of the trial scene.



① FACE IGNITES WITH DELIGHT WHEN HE RECOGNIZES FAMILY IN GALLERY

② HE SEARCHES THE AUDIENCE...

③ JOE SIRHAN - SHORT, STYLE CONSCIOUS, WORE DARK GLASSES

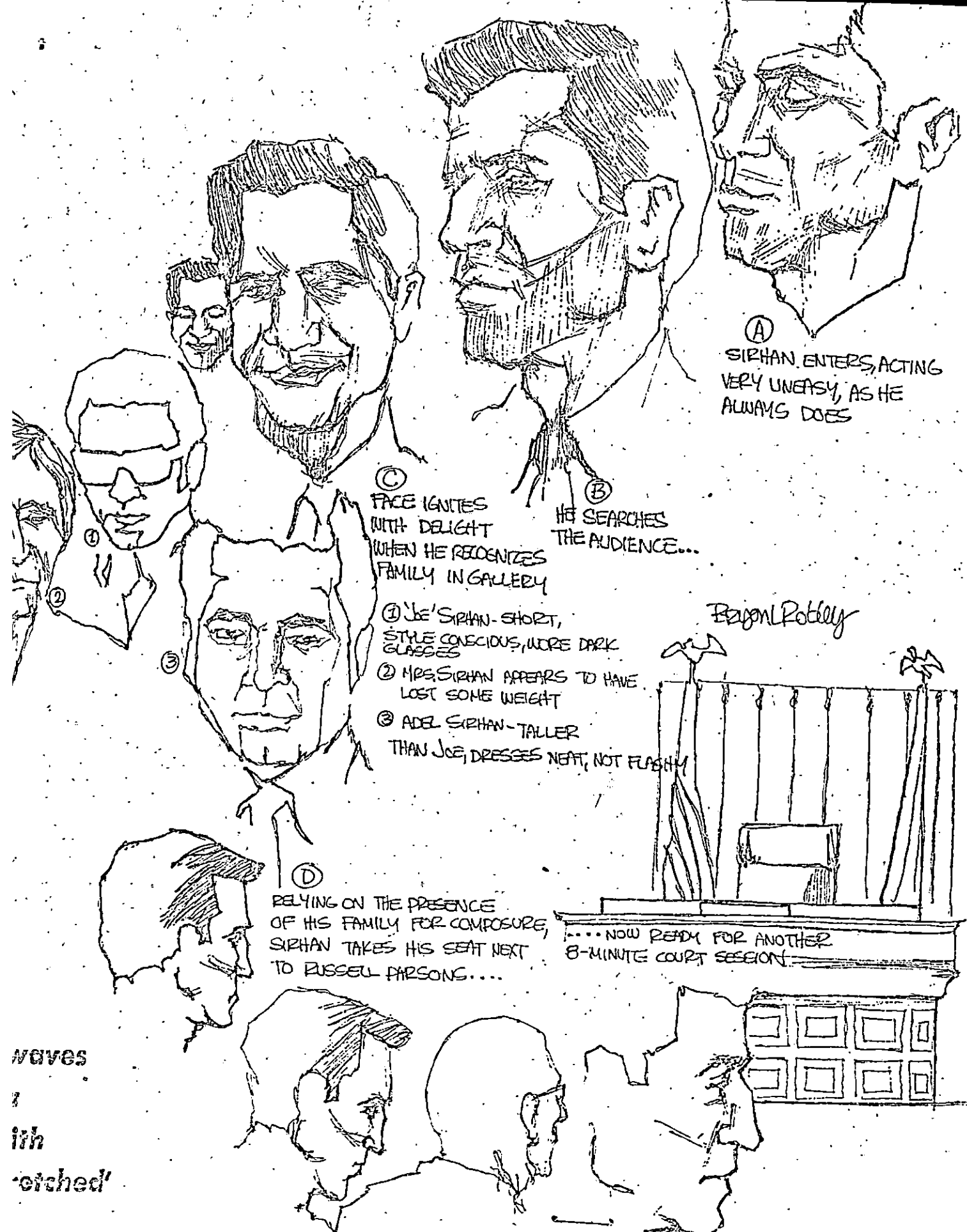
④ MRS. SIRHAN APPEARS TO HAVE LOST SOME WEIGHT

⑤ ADEL SIRHAN - TALLER THAN JOE, DRESSES NEAT, NOT FLASHY

⑥ RELYING ON THE PRESENCE OF HIS FAMILY FOR COMPOSURE, SIRHAN TAKES HIS SEAT NEXT TO RUSSELL PARSONS....

.... NOW READY FOR 8-MINUTE COURT SEE

'Usually Sirhan waves to his family in a peculiar wave with fingers far outstretched'



Ⓐ SIRHAN ENTERS, ACTING VERY UNEASY, AS HE ALWAYS DOES

Ⓑ HE SEARCHES THE AUDIENCE...

Ⓒ FACE IGNITES WITH DELIGHT WHEN HE RECOGNIZES FAMILY IN GALLERY

① 'JEE' SIRHAN - SHORT, STYLE CONSCIOUS, MORE DARK GLASSES

② MRS. SIRHAN APPEARS TO HAVE LOST SOME WEIGHT

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... NOW READY FOR ANOTHER 8-MINUTE COURT SESSION

waves
in
'etched'

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Landmark Issue Looms in Sirhan Slaying Trial

Stage Set by Woman Juror's Opposition to Death Penalty

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

A courtroom wrangle over a woman juror opposed to the death penalty raised the possibility Thursday that the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan could become a landmark case in U.S. law and that Sirhan, if convicted in the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, might never be executed.

The battle was joined when Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts renewed his challenge on legal grounds to the seating of Mrs. Alvina Alvidrez, who said Wednesday that "under no circumstances whatsoever" could she vote for the death penalty.

But Mrs. Alvidrez also specified that she felt herself qualified to judge the question of Sirhan's guilt or innocence.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker disallowed the challenge Wednesday but was considering arguments Thursday and was expected to hand down a ruling today.

One Phase Left Open

Judge Walker pointed out to Fitts that while he had disallowed the challenge on legal grounds, he had left open whether the prosecution could renew the challenge at the end of the first phase of trial. He added that an alternate juror for any juror opposed to the death penalty could be substituted rather than impanel an entire new jury if a penalty trial is necessary.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard argued that if Mrs. Alvidrez or a juror of similar opinion were seated, and that if Sirhan ultimately were convicted of first-degree murder, the court could face the possibility of a mistrial or the problem of jeopardy—in effect presenting a second trial on the same set of facts. The latter case could result, Howard said, if the jury that determined guilt had to be dismissed and replaced by another jury to fix the penalty.

California law offers only the death penalty or life imprisonment on a first-degree murder conviction and also allows for two juries—one for the guilt-innocence phase and one for the penalty phase.

Defense Attorney Grant B. Cooper previously has cited two high court decisions—that of the U.S. Supreme Court in the Witherspoon case last June and that of the California Supreme Court in the case of Anderson-Saterfield last November—which inveigh against the seating of juries who are only in favor of the death penalty.

Cooper earlier quoted the federal decision:

"Under the view of the Witherspoon majority, a jury from which all prospective jurors opposed to the death penalty have been excluded is not an impartial jury but rather constitutes a 'hanging jury'—one that is 'uncommonly willing to condemn a man to die' and one that 'cannot speak for the community' but 'can speak only for a distinct and dwindling minority.'"

Howard, in rebuttal, said that the decisions were not intended to go so far as to allow seating of jurors whose opinions are so irrevocable as that of Mrs. Alvidrez.

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Not Definitely Decided

"All the Supreme Court has required is that it be shown that a prospective juror has more than a conscientious scruple against the death penalty," Howard argued.

Cooper then suggested that the precise question facing the court has not been definitely decided by the higher court decisions.

He pointed out that in the cases cited the question of a juror's opinion about the defendant's guilt or innocence, regardless of his position on the death penalty, was not raised.

Cooper then argued that the provision for a two-part trial offers a logical solution to the question raised by Mrs. Alvidrez' position.

Both defense and prosecution tentatively seated three more jurors Thursday—Mrs. Sharon A. Engle, Benjamin Glick and Gilbert F. Grace. This brings to 10—5 women and 5 men—the number on the provisional panel.

Mideast Enters Sirhan Trial

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Arab-Israeli tensions have intruded into the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial as prosecution and defense lawyers continue to seek 12 men and women to decide the young Jordanian's guilt or innocence—and possibly whether he will live or die.

Defense attorneys stated emphatically earlier in the week that the Arab-Israeli conflict would not play a role in the trial of the man charged with the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. But, yesterday they bore down hard on whether prospective jurors held strong feelings on the tense Mideast situation.

This line of questioning became particularly acute during the questioning of Benjamin Glick—first, and so far the only Jew to be tentatively seated on the jury.

The defense "passed" Glick, after he assured chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper that he was not prejudiced against Sirhan, because of the defendant's Jordanian background and nationality.

Glick responded, "I don't believe so," to Cooper's question: "Would your religion make it difficult for you to give Sirhan a fair trial?"

It is believed that Glick's attitude toward Arabs and the Arab states also were discussed in detail in the chambers of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presides over the Sirhan trial. Each juror is examined in

secret as to possible prejudices he may have before he can be approved.

However, other than to say that Glick had told them he was Jewish, defense lawyers, obedient to Judge Walker's orders, declined to discuss his in-chambers testimony.

Glick, West Los Angeles resident, who operates a ready-to-wear clothing business from his home, was the 9th juror to be seated.

His acceptance followed that of Mrs. Sharon Engle, chestnut-haired wife of a Glendale mortician. Mrs. Engle works for the office products division of International Business Machines, and is the second IBM employee

to be tentatively seated on the jury. The second is Lawrence Morgan, a computer programmer.

Glick was not the only jury prospect to be questioned about his attitudes toward the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Questioning Gilbert W. Grace, Cooper's associate, Russell E. Parsons, asked point-blank if Grace had ever contributed money to organizations in this country supporting either Israel or the Arab states, and whether he had ever attended any meetings or lectures where the Arab-Israeli conflict was discussed.

Grace, a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power em-

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ployee, who lives in the San Fernando Valley, answered "No" and was tentatively selected as juror No. 10.

At day's end, the jury count in the Sirhan trial stood at 10 tentatively seated.

One of the jurors, Mrs. Alvina Alvidrez, Los Angeles factory worker, claims her convictions against the death penalty are so strong that it would be impossible for her to vote to send a convicted murderer to San Quentin's gas chamber, no matter what the circumstances of his crime.

Deputy prosecutors John Howard and David N. Fitts for two days have sought to get Mrs. Alvidrez off the jury. Judge Walker has their challenge under study. He may rule on it today.

Whatever Walker's ruling, it is expected to make "new law" in California.

A recent U. S. Supreme Court decision, which has been reinforced by subsequent California high court decisions, holds that a jury from which all opponents to the death penalty are automatically excluded is not impartial, but a "hanging jury."

In seeking to keep Mrs. Alvidrez on the jury, defense counsel applied this ruling to the Sirhan case.

Fitts and Howard argue that the high courts never meant to go this far. They point to California's so-called "bifurcated" murder trial, in which a jury which finds a defendant guilty of first-degree murder must also, after a second hearing, decide whether he shall suffer death or life imprisonment.

Unless Mrs. Alvidrez is put off the jury, they told Judge Walker, there is a danger that Sirhan will have two trials. This could come about if Mrs. Alvidrez sat on the trial jury and Sirhan was found guilty of capital murder.

Defense and prosecution agree she could not sit on the penalty jury.

Judge Walker thinks she might be replaced by an alternate juror, if things get to that point. But the California law on this is not clear, and there is a

possibility that another jury would have to be selected. And another trial, presumably almost as lengthy as the trial on the facts, would be undertaken.

Sirhan sat quietly alongside Parsons yesterday as the arguments over penalty juries and the Arab-Israeli conflict swirled about him.

His buoyancy of Wednesday, when he called out to a friend in the rear of the courtroom and tangled verbally with Prosecutor Fitts, was gone. Gone, too, was the lassitude which seemed to infect him through the early part of this week's proceedings.

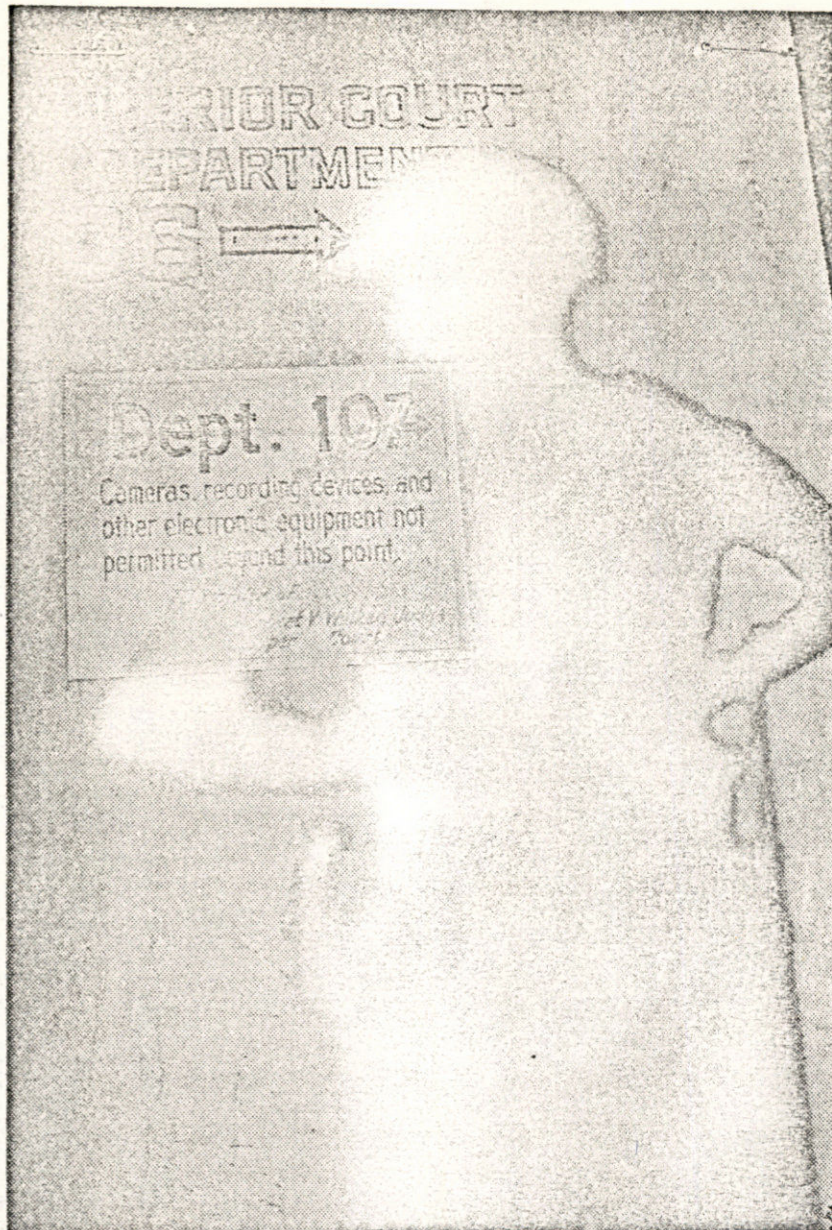
Although quiet, he was alert and studied prospective jurors carefully as each was questioned.

Defense chief investigator Michael McGowan reported that Sirhan is satisfied with the progress of the jury selection to date.

Parsons, Cooper and Emile Zola Berman, third defense counsel, met with him in his cell on the Hall of Justice's 13th floor following court.

Today, if the problem of Mrs. Alvidrez can be resolved and two more jurors tentatively seated, defense and prosecution will get a chance to make their first pre-emptory challenges.

These are moves to disqualify a juror without stating a reason. They are usually made as a result of background investigations of their jurors. But sometimes they come because of a lawyer's hunch.



WEB OF GUARDS—Tight police security surrounds the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan. The presence of Dep. Sheriff Donald Cheney is evident in the silhouette against a wall and a warning near the courtroom. Times photo by John Malmin

Sirhan Prosecution Willing to Take Jury 'as Now Constituted'

Deputy DA in Surprise Maneuver Waives 19 of His 20 Peremptory Challenges; Status of 12th Panelist Unsure

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

In a surprise maneuver Friday, the prosecution in the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan passed its peremptory challenges of prospective jurors and said it was willing to accept "the jury as now constituted."

If the defense does the same when the trial of the accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy reconvenes Tuesday morning, it could mean that 11 permanent jurors would be ready for swearing in. The status of a 12th permanent juror was not resolved Friday, and six alternate jurors remain to be chosen.

The unexpected move by Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton opened up the possibility that the prosecution could begin presenting its case as early as the end of next week.

Early Recess Requested

Upon Compton's announcement that the prosecution would not exercise the remaining 19 of its 20 peremptory challenges, chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper requested an early recess until Tuesday to allow the three-man defense team "to weigh the possibility of accepting the jury as a whole."

Under normal circumstances, if the defense also waives its peremptories, the jury would simply be impaneled.

But in this case, one prospective juror, Miss Helen L. Woodworth, had not yet been accepted on legal grounds by both sides. A mutual stipulation Friday morning directed Miss Woodworth to get a statement from her doctor whether she could endure a lengthy trial.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker then directed that the jury selection proceed, even into the peremptory

challenges, despite Miss Woodworth's unresolved status.

The possibility that a final jury may be a near thing, or that Compton's maneuver was simply a ploy to force the defense ahead in its use of peremptory challenges, perhaps hinges on Judge Walker's

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interpretation of "the jury as constituted."

Certainly Compton and Cooper have different views of it.

Compton said the prosecution holds that the jury includes Miss Woodworth, and that if she is not seated, then the jury will no longer be constituted the same way as when he passed the peremptories.

Cooper contends that the jury does not yet include Miss Woodworth, since she has not been passed by both sides, and that if he calls the prosecution on its bold play, the 11 jurors thus far seated on legal grounds will, in effect, be locked into the final jury, with only Miss Woodworth's seat yet to be filled and alternates chosen.

Compton's move came after questioning and unusually quick acceptance of a Jewish woman juror, Miss Dora Jacobi, who said she is a retired university instructor and former employee of the U.S. Armed Forces Institute's neuropsychiatric center.

Another Jew, Benjamin Glick, a Westside clothing

retailer, was accepted provisionally by both sides Thursday. Glick was the only prospective juror asked whether his religion would prejudice him against the 24-year-old Jordanian suspect.

Whatever the outcome of the peremptory ploy, both defense and prosecution did indicate that they "could live with this jury," no matter which side outmaneuvers the other.

Earlier Friday, a woman who says she could never decree the death sentence for anyone—including the slayer of Kennedy—was dismissed from the jury panel.

Judge Walker, reversing a previous ruling, decided in favor of a prosecution challenge to the seating of Mrs. Alvina Alvidrez, who had said that although she was firmly opposed to the extreme penalty in any case, she still felt qualified to judge the issue of guilt or innocence.

Cooper had battled to retain her since Wednesday afternoon, when Mrs. Alvidrez became the first person after 20 prospective jurors to oppose capital punishment.

Cooper cited recent high

court decisions which he said had ruled against the selection of so-called "hanging juries" by excluding people with conscientious scruples against execution.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard, in rebuttal, had argued that Mrs. Alvidrez' views went beyond conscientious scruples and were inflexible to a degree not supported by the cases Cooper cited.

Judge Walker, after taking the matter under submission Thursday morning, ruled that Mrs. Alvidrez be excused on legal grounds. He cited a California Supreme Court decision handed down just a week ago, in the People vs.

Beivelman, that such invincible opposition to the death penalty constitutes a just challenge on legal grounds.

The prosecution exercised the only one of its 20 peremptory challenges it used to unseat Mrs. Alicia Duke, a divorcee and an accountant for the State Lands Division.

The defense also exercised one of its peremptories in dismissing Mrs. Sharon Engle, wife of a Glendale mortician.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Lack Of Malice' Sirhan's Defense

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan returns to court today for a third week of effort to seat a jury in his murder trial, a process complicated by the extraordinary nature of his defense.

The 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant does not deny he fatally wounded Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last June 5 in the Ambassador Hotel here. But, his lawyers claim, he didn't have the mental capacity to really premeditate the crime.

On this contention—lack of malice—the defense hopes to save Sirhan from a possible death sentence conviction, gaining a lesser verdict, if not an outright acquittal.

Prosecutors, however, have announced they will object strenuously to the introduction of any psychiatric testimony, claiming it is not an accredited science, and if it is, it is not an exact science.

They contend that two competent medical men examining the same patient could come to completely opposite opinions of the patient's mental state.

The alienists, a vital bulwark in the Pasadena man's fight to beat the death penalty for his admitted slaying of Sen. Kennedy, work with Sirhan in his cell each Saturday while his trial progresses, a defense staff member disclosed.

Ink blot (Rorschach) tests and hypnosis have already been

tried on Sirhan, and consideration is now being given to putting him to a polygraph (lie detector) examination.

In each of the tests the defense psychiatrists and psychologists are seeking to determine the 24-year-old Arab's state of mind the morning of June 5, 1968, when in a kitchen off the Ambassador Hotel's Embassy room, he fatally shot Kennedy.

Insanity is not a factor in the Sirhan defense, but so-called diminished capacity is. This defense says, in effect, that while a defendant may not have been insane when he committed his crime, he lacked the "intellectual capacity" requisite to the malice essential in first degree murder.

In other words, those of a landmark decision on diminished capacity, his was not "a malicious and abandoned heart and nature."

"Nor are psychiatrists the only weapon in the Sirhan arsenal of diminished capacity defense.

Emile Zola Berman, co-counsel for the young Jordanian with Grant B. Cooper and Russell E. Parsons, disclosed this weekend that the defendant's mother, 56-year-old Mrs. Mary Sirhan, and other members of his family will be brought to the witness stand to tell of his upbringing and his life before the Kennedy slaying.

Mrs. Sirhan attends the trial of her son nearly every day. Seated in the back row of the armor-plated, eighth-floor Hall of Justice courtroom where he fights for his life, she is often heard to murmur "terrible, terrible," as arguments over the death penalty swirl around her.

Usually she is accompanied by her sons, Munir and Adel.

A robust woman when Sirhan was indicted for Kennedy's murder more than seven months ago, she now is gaunt and drawn. A cataract in her right eye has worsened.

She waits and watches, and someday will tell her story.

Neither her alienists nor the family will reach the stand until the prosecution presents its case. This will include the testimony of many eyewitnesses to Kennedy's murder.

This prosecution case cannot be presented until a jury is finally selected.

This may be done this week.

The 11 jurors chosen so far are acceptable to the State of California. Tomorrow, defense lawyers must decide if they, too, will pass the jury and get on with the case after selection of the twelfth juror and six alternates.

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Maneuver by Sirhan Defense Nearly Results in Jury Seating

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

Defense attorneys for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan matched a prosecution maneuver Tuesday that, to outward appearances, made the seating of the jury only one juror away.

But the prosecution, by withdrawing its waiver of the right of peremptory challenge, countered the defense counter-measure, unseated a Jewish woman juror and the entire process resumed with swearing-in of a final jury still estimated at a week or more away.

Last Friday, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton waived the right to challenge jurors and accepted the prospective jury as then constituted.

But of that 12, one—Miss Helen Woodworth—had not been accepted by both sides on legal grounds, and Tuesday she reported that her doctor felt confinement during a long trial would endanger her health.

Another prospective juror, Mrs. Geraldine Scherer, was accepted in her place and then defense attorney

Grant B. Cooper startled the court room by announcing: "The defense accepts the jury as now constituted."

Under normal circumstances, this would have meant that the jury was picked, but because of Miss Woodworth's replacement, Compton protested that this was no longer the jury he had accepted Friday.

Cooper contended that the jury Compton had accepted never included Miss Woodworth in the first place, but only the 11 that both sides had agreed to.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker directed Compton to request a withdrawal of his waiver of the peremptory challenge privilege, and then, exercising judicial discretion, granted Compton's request.

Compton then excused Miss Dora Jacobi, a former university instructor and one-time employe of the U.S. Air Force Institute's Neuropsychiatric Center.

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Another woman, Mrs. Jeannette F. Hendler, was excused on legal grounds after telling the court, even before she was asked, "I am unequivocally opposed to capital punishment for any reason whatsoever, whether it is imposed by an individual or by the state."

Under questioning by Cooper, Mrs. Hendler said of the 24-year-old Palestinian defendant, "I would have difficulty finding this man innocent . . . He performed an execution."

Sirhan appeared pensive throughout the tedious questioning Tuesday. But at one point he whispered urgently to defense investigator Michael McCowan, who later quoted him as saying, "Don't forget to get my alien registration card mailed in on time."

Alien residents of this country must report each year, or they are subject to deportation. McCowan said Sirhan, who has lived here 12 years on permanent alien resident status, "is very careful about complying with the law."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Jury Could Wind Up Today

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Jury selection in the Sirhan-Bishara Sirhan murder trial could be completed today, if the defense decides to accept six men and five women now seated in the jury box.

Such a move by Chief Defense Counsel Grant B. Cooper and his associates, Russell E. Parsons and Emile Zola Berman, would pave the way for choosing the final juror and selection of six alternates.

This could easily be done in a few days with the results that trial of the man charged with the June 5, 1968, assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy could get underway late this week or early next.

The defense decision must be whether to fling preemptory challenges against any of the 11 jurors tentatively seated last week.

Preemptory challenges are those for which attorneys need give no reason. Each side has 20 in a murder trial.

In the Sirhan trial, defense and prosecution have used one each.

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton startled the court of Judge Herbert V. Walker late Friday when he announced that he was satisfied with the Sirhan jury "as now constituted."

Cooper moved immediately for a recess to give the defense time to ponder the jury and decide if it wished any preemptory challenges. Judge Walker granted the recess telling Cooper:

"I realize this may come as sort of a shock to you."

The Sirhan trial was in recess yesterday while Cooper sought unsuccessfully a new Federal

District Court trial for another client, Maurice H. Freidman, convicted in the Friars Club card-cheating case.

When court adjourned Friday there was some sentiment in the defense camp for accepting the jury as it is. Some members of Sirhan's team believe that the 11 jurors chosen so far could never agree on the death penalty for the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant.

Late yesterday the defense had not made a final decision and Cooper said that even when the decision was reached it would not be announced before court convenes this morning.

He explained, "We don't want the prosecution to know what we are going to do."

If the defense does decide to use one of its preemptory challenges, the prosecution will be absolved of its agreement to accept the jurors. The see-saw process of each side getting alternate preemptory challenges will resume until both are either satisfied with the jury, or one or the other, or both, has used up 20 challenges.

There is some speculation that the defense may yet use its 20 challenges. The reason for this is that under the holdings of most appellate decisions, if the defense wishes to challenge the Sirhan jury on appeal, it must exercise all its remedies against prospective jurors during the selection process.

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Sirhan Showing Strain as Jury Selection Drags

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Strain of the long preliminaries in his trial on charges he murdered Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has begun to tell on Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

The 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant showed a new tenseness and concern yesterday as jury selection in the case wore into its second week.

Throughout most of the day the admitted slayer of Sen. Kennedy morosely studied jury prospects with more awareness than he has evidenced since the trial began Jan. 7.

Seated head in hand, his chair drawn away from his lawyers, he focused deep-socketed black eyes on the face of each prospective juror.

He paid great attention to the legal arguments that arose over peremptory challenges to tentatively seated jurors.

He whispered far less into the ear of Russell E. Parsons, defense lawyer who sits next to him.

Usually given to smiling, and even an occasional laugh, Sirhan grinned only once during yesterday's session. That was when Robert Kaiser, a member of his defense staff, and his biographer, sent him a cigar in celebration of a new birth in the Kaiser family.

Then Sirhan did smile, and, finishing the cigar, called out across the court room, "Thank you . . . thank you very much . . . Congratulations."

If the length of the preliminaries is of concern to Sirhan, neither his attorneys, nor Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presides over the trial, had good news for him yesterday.

Cooper now forecasts that completion of the jury of 12 and six alternates will take two weeks.

Judge Walker, revising his estimates of the length of the trial after jury selection is completed, warned a new panel of prospective jurors that their service could exceed two months. Before the trial opened, Judge Walker forecast that the entire matter could be disposed of in 2½ months.

The forecasts of length came after Chief Deputy Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton abruptly changed strategy and won from Walker permission to again file peremptory challenges against tentatively seated jurors. Compton had waived that right in the case of 11 prospective jurors Friday.

One prospective juror was excused by Judge Walker when both defense and prosecution

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lawyers found her pre-conceived notions about the case objectionable.

Mrs. Jeanette Hendler loudly announced that her opposition to the death penalty was such that she could never vote for it — no matter what the circumstances of a murder case.

In the next breath Mrs. Hendler told the court that she also could never vote to acquit Sirhan, nor find him guilty of less than first-degree murder.

She insisted, "He is an executioner."

Sirhan cringed as the woman spoke.

Dismissed by the prosecutor was Miss Dora Jacobi, a retired instructor in neuro-psychiatrics.

Although the defense had in the morning session indicated satisfaction with jurors seated in the box, Chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper, too, reversed himself, and challenged Los Angeles Postal clerk Leslie H. Lavey.

Henry Miller, Department of Defense official from Long Beach Naval Shipyard was tentatively selected to replace Miss Jacobi.

When the day's session ended Mrs. Wilma L. Boone, electronic assembler from Norwalk, was being questioned. Interrogation of Mrs. Boone will resume today.

Also seated yesterday was Mrs. Geraldine Scherer, retired antique dealer from Whittier.

It now appears that both defense and prosecution may use a large number of the 20 peremptory challenges each is allowed under California law in a murder trial.

Compton described his tentative agreement of Friday to accept the jury as then "constituted" as a "tactical maneuver," when talking to newsmen.

Defense lawyers may well wish to use all their peremptory challenges to pave the way for an attack on the jury when, and if, the Sirhan case is appealed.

Strain of the trial told, too, yesterday on the defendant's 56-year-old mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan.

During one recess she advanced upon Cooper, her hands frantically gesturing as she made a point. The lanky defense lawyer put his arm around her to calm her and drew her away from newsmen to settle whatever her problem was.

Mrs. Sirhan appears to have lost even more weight since the trial began. Today, she wore a heavy tweed coat. It hung upon her in loose folds.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

5 Sirhan Jury Candidates Excused

Jury selection wore on slowly in the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Five prospective jurors were excused on peremptory challenges—three by the prosecution and two by the defense. With 15 prosecution and 16 defense peremptory challenges still unused, it was expected that swearing in of a jury to try the 24-year-old Palestinian immigrant could consume the rest of this week and next week as well, before the prosecution could begin its case.

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The murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan neared the end of its third week of jury selection. Two more prospective jurors were dismissed on peremptory challenges, leaving the defense with 15 and the prosecution 14 opportunities remaining to unseat jurors either side feels might be unsympathetic to its case. But speculation arose that the defense might waive its further peremptories today in hopes of either forcing the prosecution to also accept the present jurors or to move still further ahead of the defense in the use of its remaining challenges.

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Sirhan Ignores Jury Selection Quizzes

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, apparently disinterested in selection of the jury which will try him for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, read in court yesterday while jury-picking arguments swirled around and over him.

Through nearly all of his trial session yesterday the young Jordanian immigrant was engrossed in a thick, mimeographed report which defense aides said contained testimony of Arab refugees about their harsh treatment by Israel.

When his interest in that document waned, he picked up a copy of a legal opinion.

He seldom glanced at prospective jurors who came and went as jury selection dragged on throughout the day.

Defense and prosecution attorneys used a total of nine peremptory challenges yesterday. Thirty one peremptories remain.

Dismissed from the jury at the request of Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard were:

Mrs. Rosa Molina, widowed nurse.

Mrs. Geraldine Sherer, retired antique dealer from Whittier.

Harold Baldwin, retired Bank of America assistant cashier, of Alhambra.

The defense filed preemprory challenges against Mrs. Barbara Collins, Pacific Telephone Co. customer service representative, and Mrs. Wilma Boone, electronics assembly worker, of Norwalk.

A defense source disclosed that the reasons for challenging Mrs. Boone were developed in secret questioning in Judge Herbert V. Walker's chambers. Each juror is interrogated in private by Walker and defense and prosecution lawyers in Sirhan's presence. They are asked about the influence publicity in the Kennedy murder case may have had upon them, as well as questions about religion and politics. Other questions are asked in open court.

For the first time since jury selection began last week, this secret questioning prompted a defense challenge for cause (that is, a reason defense lawyers thought strong enough to disqualify a juror).

Judge Walker denied the challenge for cause, leveled against Mrs. Patricia Anderson, a Security-Pacific National Bank secretary.

The incidents of Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Boone served to point up the large measure of secrecy surrounding selection of the jury that will try Sirhan for the June 5, 1968 murder of Kennedy.

Perhaps less is known publicly about this jury than any other in the history of major criminal trials in the century.

Jury selection see-sawed back and forth throughout the day yesterday, and at day's end only 11 were tentatively seated. Questioning of a 12th prospective juror, Ronald Evans, a telephone company installer from Inglewood, resumed this morning.

Jurors tentatively accepted yesterday included James B. Avelly, Burbank postman.

Bruce D. Elliott, TRW computer programmer, Redondo Beach, and Mrs. Anderson.

Explaining Sirhan's behavior during the trial, Russell E. Parsons, one of his attorneys, told a newsman that the constant references to the gas chamber during the trial "are beginning to get Sirhan down."

Each prospective juror is questioned sharply by the prosecution as to whether he would have the "courage" to condemn the admitted slayer of Sen. Kennedy to death, if he thought the facts in the case warranted it.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the defendant's 65-year-old mother, for the first time reacted against the publicity which she and her sons Adel and Munir received.

The Sirhans leave the court by a back stairway to avoid television and still photographers. Yesterday some newsmen discovered the secluded exit.

On her way out the door, Mrs. Sirhan angrily told a photographer: "Those lights are ruining my eyes. Why can't you leave us alone?"

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TRIAL HALT SOUGHT FOR SIRHAN

Bid to Quash Indictment Renewed

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Selection of a jury in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial drags into its ninth day today, on the heels of a defense announcement that it will renew legal moves that could halt the trial before it gets well under way.

Selection time in the case of the man accused of the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy now equals that in the first Finch-Tregoff murder trial—considered a landmark of length in its day.

But, if defense attorney Grant B. Cooper is successful in arguments next week, the Sirhan trial could end abruptly.

Cooper again will argue that the indictment charging his client with Kennedy's murder should be quashed because the 1968 Los Angeles County Grand Jury which returned it was chosen unconstitutionally.

Sirhan would not be freed, however. He could be reindicted or brought to a new trial on the basis of a district attorney's complaint.

When the trial first opened, Cooper attacked the indictment. He said the system by which

prospective jurors are nominated by Superior Court judges excludes members of some minorities from membership.

Judge Herbert V. Walker, presiding over the Sirhan trial, held Cooper's motion in abeyance. Cooper said that the end of yesterday's court session that, at the suggestion of one of the prosecutors, Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard, the jurist had agreed to hear the motion next week. No date has been set.

The Cooper announcement was the major event of the trial's 12th day, on which most of the action took place behind closed doors.

Little progress was made toward final selection of the jury.

Much of yesterday was taken up with a secret argument in Judge Walker's chambers in which the defense sought to disqualify a prospective juror, Mrs. Patricia Anderson, a Security Pacific National Bank secretary. Defense wanted her disqualified on the grounds that her attitude toward the death penalty in first-degree murder cases might be prejudicial to Sirhan.

On other occasions, these arguments had been in open court.

However, Judge Walker ordered this one heard in chambers, and, under a blanket order he issued at the opening of the trial, lawyers in the case could not disclose details.

(The problem of Mrs. Anderson became moot, however, when she told the court that Security Pacific had decided that her serving during the trial, which could last three months, would be a hardship to the bank. She was excused.

Three jurors were seated yesterday and two were removed after defense and prosecution used peremptory challenges against them. A peremptory challenge is one for which lawyers need give no reason.

Tentatively seated were: Ronald Evans, Pacific Telephone Co. installer from Inglewood.

Mrs. Mary Lou Busby, Downey High School mathematics teacher.

Mrs. Irma Martinez, clerk for the Southern California Gas Co.

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Removed by peremptory challenges were:

~~James B. Avery, Burbank~~
mail carrier.

~~Miss Carolyn L. Freeman,~~
clerk for the telephone company's Yellow Pages.

An observer at yesterday's session was ~~Dr. Cesar Garay,~~ justice of the Supreme Court of Paraguay and professor of law in that nation's Asuncion University.

Dr. Garay was visiting Los Angeles under the auspices of the State Department and expressed a wish to observe the Sirhan trial.

He and his state interpreter were subjected to the usual stringent security regulations for trial visitors, including a careful body search.

Asked his feelings about the security and search, Dr. ~~Garay~~ declared through his interpreter:

"Of course, I do not mind. It is the law."

The Paraguayan jurist obtained a copy of Judge Walker's order detailing security for the trial. ~~He said he wanted to show~~ it to his law students.

Asked about political assassination trials in his own country, he responded:

"Well, there haven't been any. We have had only one assassination—a president was shot in the 1880's. Everyone knew who did it, but they got away."

He said he had never tried a capital case, and that he did not believe there had been one in his country in 50 years.

Sirhan, on trial for breaking one law, yesterday complied with another.

He completed, and gave to his attorneys to file for him, his ~~alien registration certificate for~~ 1969.

Earlier in the week, a defense aide said the young Jordanian immigrant was "very upset" because the filing time was drawing to a close and he had not yet registered.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

8 MEN, 4 WOMEN TO TRY SIRHAN

Start of testimony in the Sirhan Sirhan murder trial is a step nearer today with the selection of 12 jurors to try the man accused of the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The jury was completed at 2:05 p.m. yesterday when defense and prosecution lawyers told Judge Herbert V. Walker, presiding over the trial, they were "satisfied with the jury as presently constituted."

The jury consists of eight men and four women. Its members are:

Ronald Evans, Inglewood, switchboard installer for Pacific Telephone Co.

Miss Susan Brunin, telephone company supervisor from Alhambra.

Albert M. Frederico, San Gabriel resident and plumber for the Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

Mrs. Mary Lou Bushy, Downey High School mathematics teacher.

Lawrence Morgan, computer programmer for International Business Machines Corp.

Mrs. Irma Martinez, Southern

California Gas Co. clerk from Alhambra.

Alphonso Golin, civilian mechanic employed by the Navy at Long Beach.

Bruce D. Elliott, TRW computer programmer of Redondo Beach.

Miss Nell Bortells, telephone company service representative from Monrovia.

Benjamin Glick, semi-retired West Los Angeles man who, with his wife, operates a ready-to-wear clothing business from his home.

Gilbert F. Grace, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power employee from the San Fernando Valley.

George Broonis, El Sereno, a DWP lineman.

These 12 will be sworn in late next week, and will be sequestered (locked up) in a downtown hotel sometime after that for the duration of the trial.

The Sirhan trial will be in recess Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday, defense and prosecution will argue challenges to the California grand and petit (trial) jury selection law, advanced by Sirhan's lawyers.

The jurors are due back in court Thursday.

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Sirhan Jury of 8 Men and 4 Women Selected

5 of Jurors Belong to Minority Groups; Both Sides Satisfied

BY DAVE SMITH

JURY SELECTED

A jury of eight men and four women, including five minority group members, will try the case against Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the Palestinian immigrant accused of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last June 5.

Agreement between the defense and prosecution came early Friday afternoon, on the last day of the third week of trial.

The defense moved twice during the morning to accept the panel and the prosecution, after the substitution of one more juror and consideration of the panel over the two hour lunch break, acceded on the second motion.

Attorneys for both sides later expressed satisfaction with the jury, which includes four Mexican-Americans and one Jew. Possible identification of jurors with the Arab defendant or their antipathy toward him, became an obvious though subtle influence on the selection technique of both sides.

The jury reportedly includes seven Republicans and five Democrats, including one Kennedy supporter.

Questioned on Religion

The sole Jew on the jury—and the only final juror to be questioned in open court about his religious views on the Israeli-Arab controversy—is Benjamin Glick, who with his wife owns a ready-to-wear shop on the city's West Side. Glick said his religious faith would not interfere with his ability to give Sirhan a fair trial.

The Glicks moved to Los Angeles five years ago from New York City.

Other jurors are:

Mrs. Irma O. Martinez, an employee of the Southern California Gas Co. whose husband is a truck driver. Mother of a 5-year-old son, Mrs. Martinez lives in Alhambra.

Alphonso Galindo, a civilian mechanic employed by the Navy in Long Beach, where he lives.

Gilbert E. Grace, a Department of Water and Power employee who lives in the northeast San Fernando Valley.

George Broonis, also a DWP employee, who lives in El Sereno and is the father of two sons who will be graduated from high school this spring.

Ronald G. Evans, a switchboard installer for Pacific Telephone Co., who lives in Inglewood and has two children.

Susan J. Brumby, a service supervisor for Pacific Telephone, who lives in Alhambra.

Albert N. Frederico, a plumber employed by the City of Los Angeles, who lives in San Gabriel.

Mrs. Mary Lou Busby, a mathematics teacher at Downey High

School, married to a history teacher at Glendale High School. A resident of the Highland Park area, Mrs. Busby described herself as a regular reader only of Barron's Weekly financial newspaper and the financial section of the New York Times.

Laurence K. Morgan, a systems analyst for International Business Machines. Married and a father, Morgan is described as deeply religious, and said he chiefly reads religious periodicals.

Bruce D. Elliot, a systems analyst for TRW Systems, Inc. He is a Ph.D. who lives in Redondo Beach.

Nell Bortells, a service representative for Pacific Telephone who lives in Montevia.

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A Good Conglomeration

Chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper said, "I think we've got people from all walks of life . . . and that's America. I just don't know what kind of juror I would have looked for in this particular case, but I think we got a good conglomeration."

Another who expressed satisfaction with the jury was Mrs. Mary Sirhan, 55, mother of the 24-year-old accused slayer.

"They are nice people," said Mrs. Sirhan, "and they stand up and say they are sure of themselves. To consider taking a life you have to be sure of yourself."

"It's up to their conscience. They are nice people. I am satisfied."

Asked if her feelings about the jurors would make the ensuing weeks of trial easier to endure, Mrs. Sirhan paused and said, "Through this, we learn. Before everything, we get our power from God above. I get my power from Him daily."

Sirhan himself, in an obvious good mood throughout the morning, as he whispered and joked with defense investigator Michael McCowan, appeared not to realize what had happened for several minutes after the prosecution accepted the jury.

Then he suddenly appeared tense, laughing quietly one moment, then darting nervous looks about the courtroom as his hands clenched and unclenched.

Superior Judge Herbert W. Walker

recessed the trial until Wednesday morning and sent the jurors home until Thursday morning with an admonition not to discuss the case with anyone and to be careful of telephone callers who "might try to advise you, as I have already experienced."

Once the trial begins in earnest, jurors will be sequestered in a downtown hotel for the two or three months the trial is expected to last. Their only outside contact will be conjugal visits over the weekends.

Judge Walker ordered attorneys for both sides to prepare their final arguments for Wednesday on a defense motion to quash the first-degree murder indictment against Sirhan.

Cooper based the motion on a contention that the method of selection of the grand jurors who originally indicted Sirhan is unconstitutional and that the jury does not represent a proper cross-section of the community.

That argument is expected to consume most of Wednesday and perhaps part of Thursday, followed by swearing-in of the 12 regular jurors and then, the selection of six alternate jurors. If choosing the alternates progresses at the rate, at which the 12 regular jurors were picked, the prosecution could begin presenting its case early the following week.

Attorneys for both the defense and prosecution

have been unusually concerned about the composition of the jury.

Sirhan is a Palestinian Arab immigrant whose shooting of the New York Senator reportedly was inspired partly by violent pro-Arab, anti-Zionist political feelings.

Attorneys for both sides have speculated that Arabs, Jews, Democrats, Republicans, radicals or conservatives of any stripe or people of any ethnic background could feel an emotional involvement in the Sirhan case because of their backgrounds.

Accordingly, the defense exercised peremptory challenges to dismiss some prospective jurors who gave an impression of

rigid opinions or conservative views, while the prosecution dismissed one woman, for example, who expressed left-oriented political views and a Negro man who wore a blue turtleneck sweater and an Egyptian love symbol on a chain around his neck.

Similarly, any person who expressed unshakable opposition to the death penalty was dismissed, despite efforts of the defense to retain these jurors.

But this question arose only twice, and New York attorney Emile Zola Berman of the defense team privately expressed dismay that such opposition occurred so rarely. In the questioning of 59 prospective jurors.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The 12 Sirhan Jurors - No Longer Faces in the Crowd

By John Douglas

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

An engineer with a Ph.D. . . . a garment salesman who retired to Los Angeles . . . a mechanic who emigrated here from Mexico and found a trade at the Long Beach Naval Ship Yard.

These men, in their occupations and circumstances, are typical of the Los Angeles County community.

They are not faces in the crowd. They are members of a select group.

Their names are Dr. Bruce D. Elliott, Benjamin Glick and Alphonso Goliotta. With five other men and four women they will try Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Should they find him guilty of murder in the first degree,

they will also decide whether he is to serve out his life in a California prison, or die in San Quentin's gas chamber.

It took eight-and-a-half days to choose the 12. They were winnowed from 60 men and women brought to the armor-plated courtroom on the Hall of Justice's eighth floor to be questioned . . . questioned . . . questioned by Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker and defense and prosecution lawyers.

They had to satisfy not only the questioning, but the hunches of the lawyers. One juror, tentatively accepted for service, was challenged by the defense only after one of the lawyers noticed she rarely smiled.

Two other women seemed too "eager" to serve and were likewise dismissed.

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The jury as finally selected includes four Mexican-Americans, and a Jew, Glick. The defense considers this a good representation of minority groups.

Seven of the jurors are Republicans and five Democrats. Only one voted for Kennedy in the California Democratic primary.

Each juror has been asked his religion in a secret questioning session in Judge Walker's chambers, but this information is confidential.

Only one of the jurors has made it clear he is a deeply religious man.

Lawrence Morgan, during each day's recesses sits in the jury box studying his gilt-edged Bible.

He testified that while he subscribed to The Herald-Ex-

aminer his basic reading was "church periodicals."

Asked about his acquaintance with police officers, he answered he knew "only those I've met at church."

Morgan has little time for television news, he explained. He arises each morning and leaves for work before the news broadcasts begin, and is at home, in bed, before it is time for the late night news.

Morgan was the only one of the 12 original prospects for the Sirhan jury to survive the selection process.

He is one of two computer programmers on the jury. The other is Dr. Elliott.

Elliott, in his 20's, won his doctorate in engineering at Purdue University and then came to California to join TRW—space oriented "think tank" headquartered in Re-

dondo Beach's Space Park.

Both men are readers when their attention is not required by the court — but Dr. Elliott leans toward paper-back novels.

Alphonso Galindo is the "loner" of the jury. During in chambers conferences when he and 11 fellows are left in the jury box, many of them chat together. Galindo appears to withdraw into himself. He looks neither to the left nor to the right. He rarely speaks.

The defense is impressed by Galindo's Mexican background. Mexico has no death penalty. And it does have a strong tradition of anti-death penalty sentiment.

Juror No. 1 — he wasn't chosen first, he sits in the seat numbered "one" — is Ronald Evans.

He answers questions from judge and lawyers with an almost military precision.

He speaks in monosyllables. He is a PBX (office switchboard) installer for Pacific Telephone Co. from Inglewood.

Another telephone company employee, Miss Susan Brumm, a supervisor-foreman for operators — sits next to him. She's been involved in jury duty since the middle of last month. She was seated on the jury only after she obtained from her employers assurances that her service at the Sirhan trial, which may last as long as three months, would in no way jeopardize her job.

Mrs. Mary Lou Busby teaches mathematics at Downey High School. She rarely reads local newspapers, she says, but is an avid reader of Barron's — a financial journal.

She's married. Her husband teaches history at Glendale High School.

A graduate of Seton Hill College at Greensburg, Pa., she has a good background in psychology.

This is important to the defense which has conceded that Sirhan fired the shot that killed Kennedy, and now seeks to save him from the gas chamber through the psychological defense of "diminished capacity."

Mrs. Busby — buxom, blonde, usually dressed in black, every hair in place, has a smile that hints of the Mona Lisa.

She also has a mind like a steel trap as she made clear during her interrogation by Cooper and Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard.

Lawyers on both sides are somewhat in awe of Mary Lou Busby — juror No. 4.

Very much not in awe of her — he jokes with her and draws her Mona Lisa smile into a broad grin — is juror No. 3 — Albert M. Frederico.

Frederico, a giant of a man, is a plumber for Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

When his questioning by Judge Walker began he became confused and frankly told the judge:

"I'm not too sharp, your honor."

According to Cooper and Berman the Sirhan jury has a "solid back row," meaning that the six jurors who sit in the second row of seats in the box are to them, particularly impressive.

Galindo sits there in seat No. 7, and next to him Dr. Elliott.

On Dr. Elliott's left is Nell Bortells.

Stocky, hair drawn back from her face, Miss Bortells pauses before answering nearly every question.

She's a telephone company sales representative from Monrovia.

Miss Bortells' pause after one question was so long that one wondered if she had heard.

She was asked, by Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Filts:

"If this case gets to the penalty phase, if you have to decide between life and death for first degree murder, (if you hold this man's life in your hands) you won't shrink from the duty — will you?"

She finally answered.

"No."

When Benjamin Glick retired from his job as a wholesale clothing salesman in New York City five years ago, he and his wife moved to West Los Angeles.

To supplement their retirement income they formed a small ready-to-wear-firm they operate from their home. Glick does the buying, Mrs. Glick the selling.

Glick is Jewish, but not active in Zionist causes.

Glick is juror No. 10 and will judge the Arab, Sirhan, for a killing which the defense will try to prove was sparked, at least in part, by Sirhan's "obsession" with his victim's sympathy for Israel.

The other three members of the jury are all Mexican-Americans — Gilbert F. Grace, George Broomis and Irma Martinez.

Mrs. Martinez is the "baby of the jury." In her early 20's, she is a clerk for the Southern California Gas Co.

Her short black hair in unruly and a strand often obscures her vision. She brushes it back with an angry gesture.

Grace and Broomis are both Los Angeles Department of Water and Power employees.

Both have a stolid look about them.

Sirhan is satisfied with his jury. When selection was completed he reared back in his chair and relaxed like a runner, at the end of a close race.

His brother, Munir and

mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, take the lawyers' word for it.

Said Munir:

"If they are satisfied, we are satisfied."

Mrs. Sirhan added:

"We have confidence in them so long as they have confidence in themselves."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Jurors for Sirhan To Yield Freedom

Only a few days remain for the dozen jurors chosen in two men and women to stay with weeks of questioning will be their families before being shut sworn and six alternates will be off from the world for about selected.

Three months. The 18 jurors then will be sequestered in a downtown hotel for the trial's duration. It is expected to last as long as three months.

Later this week—probably Thursday—the eight men and four women will be sworn in to the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, admitted assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Defense and prosecution attorneys worked over the week-end to argue Wednesday on the defense's pre-trial motion to quash a grand jury indictment against the 24-year-old Palestinian Arab on grounds the grand jury doesn't represent a fair cross-section of the population.

If Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker rejects motion, jury.

Judge Walker will permit conjugal visits on weekends, but jurors otherwise will be allowed no contact with relatives or friends.

Each juror will be limited to a private hotel room and a community recreation room with television and newspapers—both monitored and censored to screen news of the trial.

Attorneys for both sides said they were satisfied with the

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3 MONTHS OF CONFINING TRIAL

12 Sirhan Jurors Face
Their Last Free Day

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

Eight men and four women—total strangers—may enjoy their last day with family and friends today before embarking on three months of grim and tedious confinement together.

If they are sworn in Thursday, as has been indicated, they will be kept day and night in a rigidly controlled environment in which diversions will be chosen for them, and precious few at best.

Their attention in almost every waking hour will be riveted on only one thing: giving Sirhan Bishara Sirhan his due.

That won't be easy.

On the surface the Sirhan case appears cut-and-dried. But three months from now these 12 jurors

will have to do the most sophisticated thinking of their lives to fairly assess one complex, intangible—and all-important—factor: Sirhan's state of mind.

That is what his trial is going to be about.

Dozens of people saw Sirhan kill Sen. Robert F. Kennedy at the Ambassador last June 5, and Mayor Sam Yorty gave a public airing over television of parts of a diary in which Sirhan wrote of his intent to assassinate the New York senator.

Even though the defense admits Sirhan killed Sen. Kennedy, the prosecution plans to spend a month in court proving the uncontested fact, to drive the point fully home before asking the jury to gas Sirhan to death.

Since none of the jurors has expressed any conscientious objection to the death penalty, theirs might seem a simple task.

But the defense hopes to impress the jury with a wide array of medical, psychological, political, sociological and perhaps even chemical and genetic evidence to show that Sirhan was incapable of responsible premeditation of murder, that emotional factors diminished his capacity to plan.

This is a legitimate defense under California law, one that takes account of mental imbalance less bizarre than the dithering lunacy normally required to buttress a defense of legal insanity.

The defense of diminished responsibility also is one that each of these 12 jurors has sworn to give impartial, open-minded attention to. And in doing as they have sworn, they open themselves to agonizing hours when the time comes to decide whether to kill a man or let him live.

The prosecution has already warned these jurors that it is merely an abstraction to say, "I could vote the death penalty." They must liken themselves, the prosecution stresses, not only to eye-witnesses at the beheading of a person but also to "the man who has to put his hand on the axe."

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Until that moment of truth arrives, the jurors will sit through one of the most cumbersome yet cautious trials in American history. They have already—in the two weeks of jury selection—had a taste of what it will be like:

Endless repetition, painstaking detail, confusing niceties of law, haggling over semantic nuances until the whole point is blunted by the monotonous drone.

Tug at Stomach

And then, at unexpected moments, the quick tug at the stomach whenever two recurrent details rear out of the fog like icebergs: Kennedy, bleeding to death on a kitchen floor. The impending decision on Sirhan's life or death.

Despite the frequent monotony that is handmaiden to American jurisprudence, the attentiveness of the jurors impaneled last Friday indicates they sense something awesome in the spectacle of such complicated legal machinery cranked up to grind out justice for one little 120-pound sprig of humanity.

Despite the inconvenience the jurors will suffer in being kept out of touch with life in general

during the trial, most of the 12 seemed to want to be on this historic jury.

Their sense of history is doubtless heightened by the presence of newsmen and artists who occupy half of the courtroom's 75 seats.

With sidelong glances, the jurors can see the reporters scanning their faces keenly and continually, looking for telltale reactions.

They can see the artists busy with their sketchpads, drawing their profiles, then a three-quarter view, maybe even a full-face sketch in color. There will be no photographs—cameras are forbidden in the court—but the jurors know that their portraits will be shown in newspapers and on television all over the country.

Never See Portraits

They, ironically, may never see their portraits, unless someone saves them until after the long trial. The jurors are forbidden to read or listen to anything about the case until a verdict is reached. In the downtown hotel where they will be locked up nights and weekends, a bailiff will monitor their television and censor their reading, cutting out all reference to the Sirhan case.

These precautions, designed to protect the jurors from editorial persuasion and from harassment

by cranks, are at the order of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, who at 69 presides over the biggest case in a distinguished career that ends with his retirement in July.

Judge Walker is a portly man with a gruff face seamed by downward-drooping lines. His face is dominated by bushy white eyebrows which rise and descend with unusual expressiveness. When he smiles, as he often does in court, he looks remarkably like an owl.

Below him, the pale, thin, nervous defendant sits, large, dark eyes darting to and fro in a smiling but frightened face.

Sirhan, 24, small enough to have once aspired to be a jockey, exhibits a number of nervous mannerisms as the arguments wear on. He chews at hangnails, picks at his fingers, clenches and unclenches his hands, clasp ing them over and over. His fingers are deeply stained by nicotine.

He always has a smile and a wave for his mother, Mary, and brothers Adel, 30, and Munir, 21, who sit in the rear of the court. And he hangs over the arm of the chair of one of his attorneys, Russell E. Parsons, a grandfatherly man of 69, for whom Sirhan has formed a deep attachment.

Mrs. Sirhan, 55, worries

about how much sleep Sirhan gets these days, and shakes her head like any hard-working mother over the problem of keeping her imprisoned son in a clean change of clothes. "This is the hardest time of my life," she admitted one day last week. "It has always been a hard life, but now, now is the hardest. Every day when I come here, the deputies search me — my clothing, my purse, even my hair. Why don't they search my heart?"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Charge Quash Pressed

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Defense attorneys will seek to make more California legal history in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial today as they return to court to again attack the county grand jury which indicted the Jordanian immigrant for Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's murder.

Chief Defense Attorney Grant B. Cooper seeks to quash the first-degree murder indictment on the grounds that the grand jury was unconstitutionally chosen.

Bone of contention is the system in Los Angeles County by which grand jurors are chosen from lists of nominees submitted by the judges of the Superior Court. The defense contends that the nomination procedure serves to exclude members of "certain minority groups" from grand jury service.

Whatever the outcome, the grand jury argument will extend the Sirhan trial at least five days. There is an outside possibility, prosecution sources said yesterday, that the argument could drag on for at least two weeks.

On call by defense counsel for today's session are professors Bob and Ray Schultz, demographic-sociologists at the University of Southern California. Demographic sociology is the study of the make-up of social and population groups with reference to their ethnic entities.

Cooper and his colleagues, Russell E. Parsons and Emile Zola Berman, hope to show that the 1968 grand jury was not ethnically representative of the population of the county and therefore could not by its very nature give a "fair and impartial" hearing to Sirhan.

At an in-chambers conference with Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker yesterday, defense and prosecution lawyers agreed to poll the 135 judges of the Los Angeles County Superior Courts by mail on their policies as to the nomination of grand jurors. Had this not been done, any or all of the 135 could have been subpoenaed into the armor-plated, eighth-floor Hall of Justice courtroom where Sirhan is being tried, to testify. Such a procedure could have extended the trial more than a month. Prosecution lawyers believe that opening and closing arguments in Cooper's motion to quash the Sirhan indictment will take two days. Witnesses called by both sides are expected to occupy the court's time for at least another three days.

*Grand Jury Selection /w
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1-29-69*

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Counsel Calls 133 Judges in Move to Quash Indictment

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's defense counsel subpoenaed all 133 Los Angeles County Superior Court judges Wednesday to testify as to how they pick their nominees for the grand jury.

The move postpones for perhaps a week the swearing-in of the 12 trial jurors seated last Friday. It also delays selection of six alternate jurors and the opening of the prosecution's case.

There was no prospect, however, that the 133 subpoenas would cause a parade of judges through Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's courtroom.

With each subpoena, the defense included a questionnaire for each judge to fill out and return, instead of appearing personally.

Moves to Quash Indictment

The questions deal with the racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds of all grand jury nominees since 1959.

Chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper argued Wednesday, as he has earlier, for a motion to quash the indictment against Sirhan, accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Cooper contended that the system of seating the grand jury excludes many classes of workers and minorities and is thus unconstitutional.

Cooper said he intends to find out whether judges nominate only from their circle of acquaintances, or whether they make an effort to nominate qualified persons from all strata of society.

(In Los Angeles County, each Superior Judge nominates two candidates. Twenty-three jurors are ultimately chosen by lot.)

Two Judges Willing to Appear

Of the 133 subpoenas, 26 were found to be undeliverable, the defense said, due to death, illness, absence or retirement of the judge from this jurisdiction. Of judges subpoenaed Wednesday, only two—Arthur L. Alarcon and Edward Brand—indicated a desire to appear in court.

Judge Walker ruled that the trial would convene today to take testimony from the two jurists and to give the trial jurors another probable date for their swearing-in. Other judges who want to appear—if there are any—would be heard Friday, Judge Walker said.

Cooper said he will compile the answers to the questionnaires and add them to other testimony in support of the motion to quash the indictment against Sirhan.

Cooper called Dr. Robert

E. Schultz, a professor of finance at USC, to describe his analysis of the 1968 grand jury's makeup in comparison to 1960 census figures for the county.

Schultz's testimony indicated that the majority of nominees were older, wealthier, better educated and from the least integrated parts of the county.

Chief Dept. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton countered Cooper's argument

with the contention that claims of racial or economic exclusion from the grand jury were "rather specious" in the case of Sirhan, a Palestinian Arab.

Compton pointed out that the function of a grand jury is solely to determine whether evidence is sufficient to warrant a trial, and that he felt it "inconceivable" that any grand jury, however constituted, would not have indicted Sirhan, particularly in view of the fact that the defense does not deny Sirhan killed Kennedy.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Superior Court Judges
sub prepared

Grand Jury Selection
12/1/69

106 jurors
1-30-69

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Trial of Sirhan

Bogged in Detail

Trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan on charges he killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy bogged down again today in a morass of technical detail as defense lawyers awaited responses from Superior Court Judges on how they choose nominees for the grand jury.

The defense has served 123 jurists with subpoenas and questionnaires on grand juror nomination as part of the attack on the 1968 grand jury which indicted the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant for Kennedy's murder. The judges may either fill out the questionnaires and return them to the court of Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presides over the trial, or testify in person.

By late last night, 55 judges had returned their questionnaires. Judge Walker made today at 5 p.m. the deadline. Chief Defense Attorney Grant B. Cooper wants to do a statistical study of the jurists' responses. He will have to base it on material received through today, according to Walker.

The trial will not resume until Tuesday, at which time Cooper will call Sirhan and his 56-year-old mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan.

One of the bases of attack Cooper is employing is that the grand jury was unconstitutionally chosen because excluded members of the low income group. He says the Sirhan and members of this



—Herald-Examiner Photo
ARTHUR ALARCON
Judge also appeared



—Herald-Examiner Photo
JUDGE EDWARD BRAND
Witness at Sirhan trial

nominees for 1968 as revealed in the judges questionnaire.

He has already testified that the makeup of the grand jury was not economically, socially and demographically reflective of the profile of the county as that profile is revealed in the 1960 census.

William A. Goodwin, Superior Court Jury Commissioner, testified yesterday that for the last three years Superior Court presiding judges have urged jurists to consider ethnic, racial and economic level factors in choosing grand jurors.

According to Emile Zola Berman, Cooper's associate:

"They have been told to do this. But they have not done it."

Cooper believes that if he can show that the 1968 grand jury was unconstitutionally selected the indictment charging Sirhan with first degree murder in the Kennedy slaying must be quashed.

If this happens the present trial will be halted. However, Sirhan would not go free. He could be re-indicted or brought to trial on the basis of a district attorney's complaint. Meanwhile, he would remain behind bars under the police warrant charging him with murder.

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*Superior Court
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Grand Jury Selection law*

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They will be questioned on economic status and nothing else, he said yesterday.

Three Superior Court Judges chose yesterday to answer Cooper's questions in person rather than responding to the questionnaires.

Retired Los Angeles County Superior Court Presiding Judge Kenneth Chantry and Judges Arthur L. Alarcon and Edward Brand all testified yesterday.

Chantry and Alarcon said they sought members of minority groups for grand jury service, but were often unsuccessful. They were not successful in their search for such persons for the 1963 grand jury, they said.

Judge Brand said he did not believe in "hyphenated Americans" and paid little or no attention to the ethnic backgrounds of his nominees.

Brand and Chantry admitted their nominees in 1962 and 1963, the test years in the Cooper argument, were affluent and in their 60's and 70's.

Alarcon said he sought younger nominees.

All three judges pointed out that beside its functions of criminal indictment, the grand jury was charged under California law with responsibility for investigating and auditing the various departments of county government. Great judgment and maturity is needed to perform this task, they said.

When court resumes Tuesday, Dr. Robert Schultz, University of Southern California population expert, will again take the stand—this time to testify of his analysis of the grand jury

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Lawyers Call in Judges

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Defense maneuvering gets underway today in the Sirhan B. Sirhan murder trial and, if successful, it could end the trial before any evidence is presented against the admitted slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Los Angeles County's chief superior court jury commissioner, William Goodwin, and at least two Superior Court judges will be questioned about how the 1968 county grand jury which indicted Sirhan was chosen.

The jurists, Arthur Alarcon and Edward Brand, were among 133 Superior Judges for whom defense subpoenas were issued yesterday. Each judge was given the option of answering a written questionnaire about his nominations to the grand jury, or appearing personally to testify in the Court of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker.

Alarcon and Brand declined to answer the questionnaire, but within hours of receiving their subpoenas indicated a desire to testify.

Judge Walker said he expected more judges to testify.

Defense strategy, devised by Sirhan's chief counsel Grant B. Cooper, is to challenge the constitutionality of the grand jury selection system. If this strategy is successful the indictment charging the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant with Kennedy's slaying would be quashed.

Sirhan would not go free, but the present trial would be halted. He then could be re-indicted, or brought to trial on the basis of a district attorney's complaint. Meanwhile, he would remain in jail under a police warrant charging him with murder.

Just how long defense and prosecution arguments on the grand jury issue will take is uncertain. Some indication may come from Judge Walker today when he tells the 12 jurors chosen to try Sirhan when they must return to court.

They were excused today, and will not be present during argument of the grand jury challenge. They also can not be sworn in until Walker rules on the defense attack.

Cooper told Judge Walker yesterday that he expects the judicial questionnaires to be returned to him by Monday evening. Then they must be analyzed by Dr. Robert Schultz, University of Southern California population studies expert retained by the defense.

Cooper has indicated he would like the trial recessed until the analysis is completed, but Judge Walker is resisting further delays in the Sirhan case.

Schultz was the only witness called by the defense yesterday. He testified that he had compared ethnic, demographic and economic data concerning nominees for the 1968 grand jury with 1960 census profiles of Los Angeles County.

Asked is conclusion, he said: "The makeup of the grand jury nominees in no way shows a profile of Los Angeles County."

On the basis of Dr. Schultz' findings, Cooper attacked the grand jury on two grounds:

• First, that it was unfair to Sirhan because he is but 24 and no member of the grand jury was 30 or under.

• Second, that it was unfair because Sirhan comes from "an economically low level," and no member of the grand jury, Schultz estimates, had an income of less than \$10,000 annually.

Although he maintained that the same legal principles apply to Sirhan's case as have been cited in successful attacks on grand juries based on racial exclusion, Cooper said he is not raising the racial issue here.

The grand jury that indicted Sirhan included Negroes, Mexican-Americans, and, ironically, one Arab.

Cooper insisted that he does not have to show that exclusion of young persons and those of low income from the grand jury was prejudicial to his client. The simple fact of exclusion is enough, he says.

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Chief Deputy Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton disputed this.

He also argued that the grand jury question is irrelevant because any grand jury would have indicted Sirhan. He pointed to the fact that Cooper concedes, "Sirhan pulled the trigger that fired the shot that killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy."

Cooper insisted that a substantial "federal constitutional" question is raised in his attack on the grand jury system.

Dep. District Atty. John Howard, responding for the prosecution, said that while the federal courts had agreed to look at the makeup of federal grand juries, they had not involved them-

selves with state grand jury selection. He pointed out that there was no question but that the 1968 grand jury was chosen in accordance with California law.

"The federal government lets us run our own railroad," he said.

Judge Walker broke in from the bench to question this, saying:

"In the past five years the federal government has said we can't run our own railroad. I am not sure they won't do it in this case."

When court adjourned yesterday, defense aides said they had served subpoenas and questionnaires on 80 of the 133 Superior Court judges they sought. Another 26 will not be served because the judges are retired and either ill or out of town. The balance of the subpoenas will be served today.

Profiling the grand jurors nominated by the judges under subpoena, Dr. Schultz said he found that 88 per cent were 45 or older; 74 per cent had at least one year of college and many held graduate degrees.

He said 67 per cent were either professional or technical men or managers and that 154 of 160 nominees lived in basically all-white neighborhoods which he listed as "centered on Beverly Hills and including Brentwood, Bel-Air, West Los Angeles and the Palisades Peninsula."

He said 75 per cent of the grand jury nominees lived in homes valued at more than \$25,000 and 70 per cent had annual incomes greater than \$10,000.

Countering his argument that these figures were in marked contrast to the 1960 census profile, Compton termed Schultz' testimony irrelevant because, he said, the 1960 Census is out of date.

The Sirhan attack on the grand jury is similar to that brought last year in the Sal Castro-Brown Beret case. Defense and prosecution attorneys have obtained copies of the 100-page record in that case, but Judge Walker said yesterday he wants to establish a new record and not rely on the Castro case.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

GRAND JURY ISSUE

Sirhan Defense Subpoenas 133 Superior Judges

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

The prospect of a week-long recess in the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan arose Wednesday as the defense subpoenaed all 133 of Los Angeles County's Superior Court judges regarding their method of selecting grand jury nominees.

Chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper, arguing for a motion to quash the indictment against the admitted slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, contended Wednesday that the grand jury is unconstitutional because it does not represent a broad cross section of the population.

Cooper said Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker indicated he would grant a "reasonable" continuance for the defense to analyze the judges' testimony. Cooper said he would seek to have the matter put over to next Wednesday.

There was no prospect, however,

that the 133 subpoenas would trigger a parade of judges through Judge Walker's courtroom.

With each subpoena the defense included a questionnaire for each judge to fill out and return instead of appearing personally. The questionnaire's 14 questions deal with the racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds of all the people the judges have nominated to the grand jury since 1959.

23 Selected

Each judge nominates two persons to the grand jury and from the pool of more than 200, 23 are selected by lot.

Cooper called Dr. Robert E. Schultz, a professor of finance at USC, to describe his analysis of the 1968 grand jury's makeup in comparison to 1960 census figures for the county.

Schultz' testimony indicated that the majority of nominees were older, wealthier, better educated and from the least integrated parts of the county.

"The people (on the 1968 prospective grand jury panel) in no way approximate the profile of the Los Angeles County population," Schultz concluded.

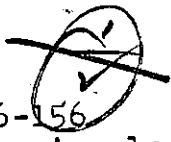
Chief Dept. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton countered Cooper's argument with the contention that claims of racial or economic exclusion from the grand jury were "rather specious" in the case of Sirhan, a Palestinian Arab.

Compton pointed out that the function of a grand jury is solely to determine whether evidence is sufficient to warrant a trial, and that he felt it "inconceivable" that any grand jury would not have indicted Sirhan, particularly in view of the fact that the defense does not deny Sirhan killed Kennedy.

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SUBPOENAED IN SIRHAN CASE—Superior Court Judge Mark Brandler, one of 133 judges called by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's defense counsel. He is studying a questionnaire included with subpoena. Times photo by John Malmin

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Breaks Into Tears

Talking in the hallway with Cooper, Mrs. Sirhan suddenly shuddered and brought her hands to her face, then buried her face against Cooper's chest as she sobbed.

Cooper wrapped his arm around the diminutive woman, patted her on the shoulder and kissed her on the cheek, murmuring "There, there, there now."

The cause of her outburst was not definitely learned, but it was reported that she was apprehensive about the forthcoming testimony. Mrs. Sirhan has been described as very shy and very proud, deeply religious and emotionally anguished since the June 5 killing of the New York senator.

Courtroom action Thursday was dominated by Cooper's attack on the grand jury seating system as unconstitutional because of alleged exclusion of poor or unemployed persons or those from minority groups.

As a Palestinian Arab whose family is also poor, Sirhan is thus a member of at least two classes traditionally unrepresented on the grand jury, Cooper contends.

The prosecution countered that despite defense studies indicating

Sirhan May Testify on Low Income in Challenge on Jury

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and his mother will "in all probability" be called to the witness stand next Tuesday to testify to the family's low economic status since their immigration in 1957.

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper said the testimony will support the defense contention that the admitted slayer of Robert F. Kennedy was indicted for murder by unconstitutionally seated grand jurors who came from a much wealthier class than he, and that the indictment should therefore be quashed.

The trial was recessed until Tuesday to allow preparation for further argument on the defense motion.

Cooper said the Sirhans' testimony would be kept "very brief," and that it would relate only to the family's income.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, 55, a tiny, soft-spoken woman who has sat in the rear of the courtroom almost every day of her son's trial, broke down and cried at the close of Thursday morning's court session.

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that some exclusion does occur, the 1968 grand jury that indicted Sirhan did in fact include two Negroes, Robert W. Garnett and Mrs. Adele M. Gomez, and even one Arab-American woman, Mrs. Margaret E. Shalhoub, whose father was Syrian and whose mother was Lebanese.

A major part of Cooper's attack on the grand jury selection system will be the answers of the county's Superior Court judges, all subpoenaed Wednesday, on how they choose their nominees. Each judge may nominate two jurors, and 23 are ultimately chosen by lot.

Most of the jurists answered the subpoena by filling out a questionnaire included by the defense, but three judges, Arthur L. Alarcon, Edward R. Brand and Kenneth N. Chantry, appeared Thursday afternoon to testify.

The testimony of these three—out of more than 100 responses expected over the weekend—tended to support Cooper's claim that nominees mostly come from the wealthier, older, better educated strata of society.

But Alarcon and Chantry also testified that they have tried in the past to find qualified nominees from among minority groups and lower income areas.

Judge Brand, however, told Cooper he had never considered racial or ethnic background in any way in selecting nominees because "I've never concerned myself with 'hyphenated Americans.' To me, there's only one kind of American."

Asked if his nominees tended to earn \$15,000 or more per year, he said he assumed they did and added, "It doesn't take very much to earn over \$15,000 nowadays."

Grand Jury Selection 12/24

*Superior Court
Judges Suspend*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Grand Juries

Sirhan Defense Team to Probe California's Unique System

By John Douglas

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

County grand juries . . .
how are they chosen?

Is the system archaic?

Do they try to accomplish
too much in their dual respon-
sibilities to the criminal
courts and to civil govern-
ment?

These questions will be
pressed by defense lawyers in
the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan
murder trial this week as they
not only seek to quash the in-
dictment charging their client
with the murder of Sen. Rob-
ert F. Kennedy, but also to
overturn forever California's
unique Grand Jury system.

—The law of every state
makes provision for some
kind of Grand Jury system. In
the New England states, these
juries are seldom called into
session—summoned only in
the event of major crimes or
scandals.

In other states, such as New
York, the County Grand Jury
is in session almost continual-
ly, as it is in California. But
there is a difference. The
Grand Jury, except in very
limited circumstances, has
only the power to indict for
crime in New York — nothing
else.

But in California the Legis-
lature has given Grand Jury
many tasks. Summing them
up, the 1968 Los Angeles
County Grand Jury reported
to the Board of Supervisors:

"Few citizens realize that
California county grand juries
have two-fold functions: The
first, well-known, is the criminal
function; the second less
widely recognized but equally
important, is the civil or
housekeeping responsibility."

The 1968 Grand Jury indicted
Sirhan. It notes this in its
report in a 10-line paragraph.
The same report devotes 65
pages to the Grand Jury in-
vestigation of county govern-
ment. This was not a criminal
investigation. Much of it is
based on the findings of an
audit team employed each
year by the jury.

This year the jury also de-
voted its time to investigation
of health services in the
county, a study of student un-
rest and civil disobedience,
and to a probe of inadequate
facilities for the Coroner's
Office.

As the grand jurors noted in
their final report: "Los An-
geles County is one of the
largest financial enterprises

(Indicate page, name of
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per S. H. Nolan
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in the West. . . " The conduct of this enterprise, and the spending of a budget in excess of \$1.5 billion is, by law, the direct business of the Grand Jury.

The magnitude of the Grand Jury's task can perhaps be fathomed by comparing the county with a similar metropolitan region.

The only municipal jurisdiction in the United States comparable in population to Los Angeles County is the City of New York. That city, divided into five counties, never has less than five grand juries sitting simultaneously.

There are usually twice that number. Moreover, all the civil 'housekeeping' functions performed by the Los Angeles County Grand Jury are done by the New York State and New York City comptrollers' office, each with a staff of hundreds.

In Los Angeles the 23 members of the jury can expect to meet four or five days a week, and be loaded with homework to study at their all-too-rare leisure. Although, by law, the jury must hire an auditor, usually a certified public accountant, that accountant's findings must be studied and approved by the jurors before they can be finalized.

Judge Arthur Alarcon, who twice as Criminal Courts Master Calendar Judge, has supervised the jury, estimated in testimony at the Sirhan trial that a member of the jury spends some 50 hours weekly on his task.

For it he is paid \$10 daily when the grand jury is sitting, plus mileage one-way at 10 cents per mile.

Kenneth Chantry, retired Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, and Judge Edward Brand, a member of the Superior bench since 1936, both believe that the time grand jury service takes and the judgment required of a juror in his assessment of the county's business, necessarily limits service on the jury to a few.

Unlike many jurisdictions, California grand juries sit for a full calendar year. An appointee to the jury must be able to make the financial sacrifice demanded by this year's service. And, if he is not self-employed, he must have an employer who is willing to, in effect, give him up for that year.

Judge Brand especially, according to his testimony at the Sirhan trial, is convinced that the decisions about the county's business a grand juror is required to make also requires a person of extraordinary intelligence and business acumen.

The element of sacrifice of time, Judge Alarcon and Judge Chantry testified, is the major barrier they found in their search for young people and members of minority groups to serve on the jury.

Judge Brand testified he never made any special effort to find either the young or the minority group members, when he sought nominees. He appointed people he knew.

The system of selection in California is a complex one. It begins each September in the year prior to which the juror is to serve.

In Los Angeles County, each of the 134 Superior Court Judges is invited to nominate two persons. Some do not make nominations, others name only a single person. In each case it is up to the individual jurist.

The names submitted are then subjected to a background investigation and studied by a committee of judges, which may have from three to eight members.

Some names are winnowed out and the rest given to the county clerk. By the spin of a wheel, he selects 34 names. Summons are served on these 34, and they appear before the clerk, at which time, again by the spin of a wheel, 23 of their number are finally chosen for service. This selection must be made by Dec. 10 in the year preceding the year in which the juror is to serve.

In criminal cases, and in

questions involving the removal of civil officials, which the Grand Jury also has the power to do, 14 of the 23 jurors must hear the evidence and concur before an indictment or removal may be voted.

In its civil work, the Grand Jury is divided into committees: Audit, Schools, Social Service, Smog, Jails, etc. These committees are of differing size depending on their importance and responsibility.

The jury makes its criminal reports to the Master Criminal Calendar Judge and its final municipal report to the Board of Supervisors. It has the services of the District Attorney and his staff and other municipal officials as staff.

It must hire an auditor, but, unlike other states in California the jury can not hire an attorney independent of the district attorney.

Each of the judges who nominated a member of the jury which indicted Sirhan has been asked questions about the criteria he used in selecting nominees.

Defense attorneys believe that in many cases this study will show the judges nominated their friends. However, many observers maintain that, given the civil responsibilities at the Grand Jury, this occurs because the jurists want persons whose judgment they trust.

Emile Zola Berman, one of Sirhan's lawyers says that the very nature of the California Grand Jury system is such that "no working stiff can ever serve."

Because of this, he, and his associates, Grant B. Cooper and Russell E. Parsons, will attack the system at its roots—the selection process and the civil aspect.

They expect to take their battle to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Should they prevail, the California Grand Jury system would fall.